Black Jack

Osamu Tezuka

VOLUME NO. 15

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VERTICAL.

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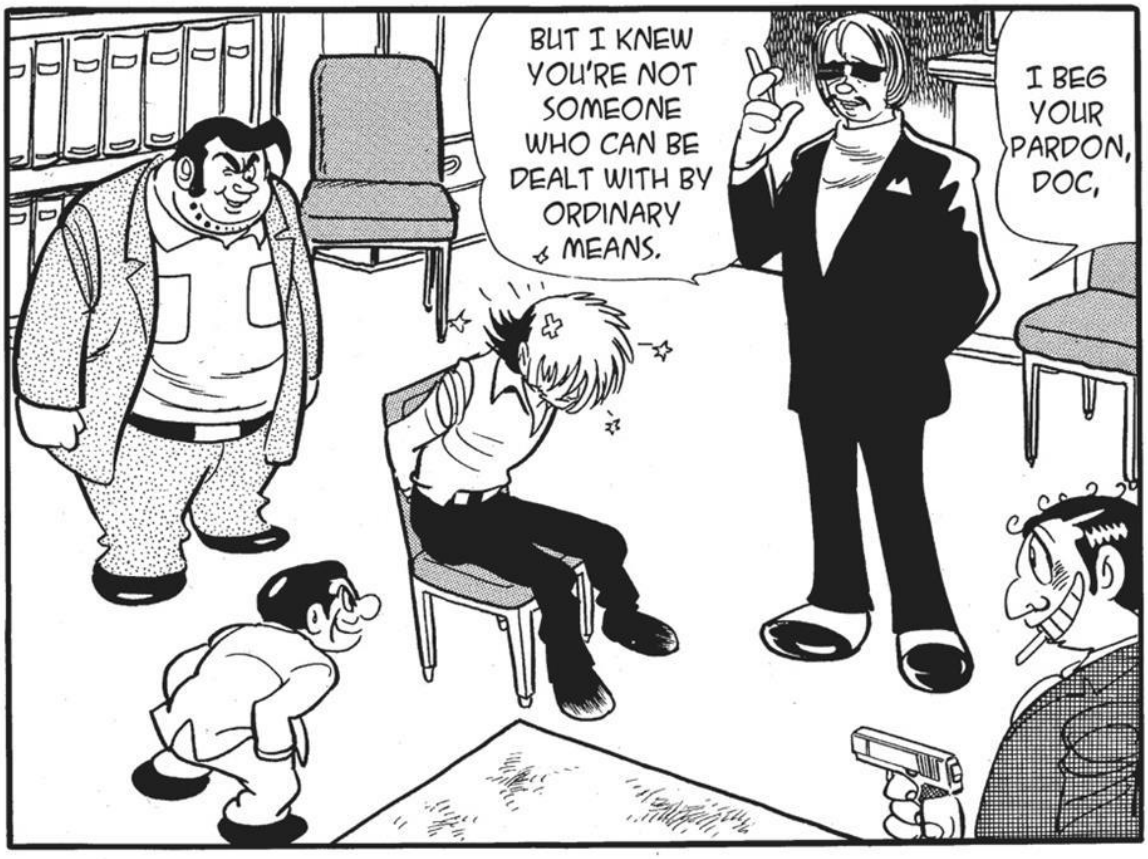
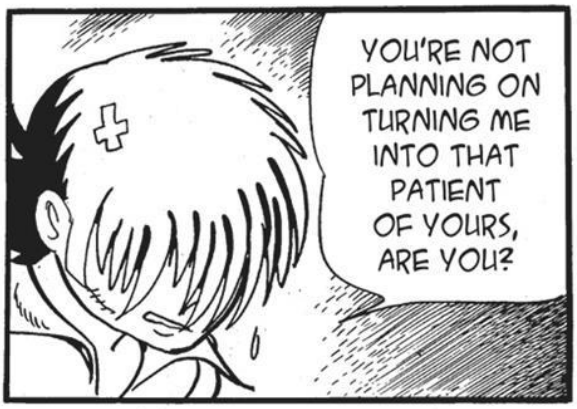
TREASURE ISLAND

HE'S HERE.
THANKS FOR COMING, DOCTOR. THE PATIENT'S UP HERE.

バタン!!
SLAM
ガッ!!
WHACK


BUT I KNEW YOU'RE NOT SOMEONE WHO CAN BE DEALT WITH BY ORDINARY MEANS.
I BEG YOUR PARDON, DOC,

THAT ALL DEPENDS!
HEHEH

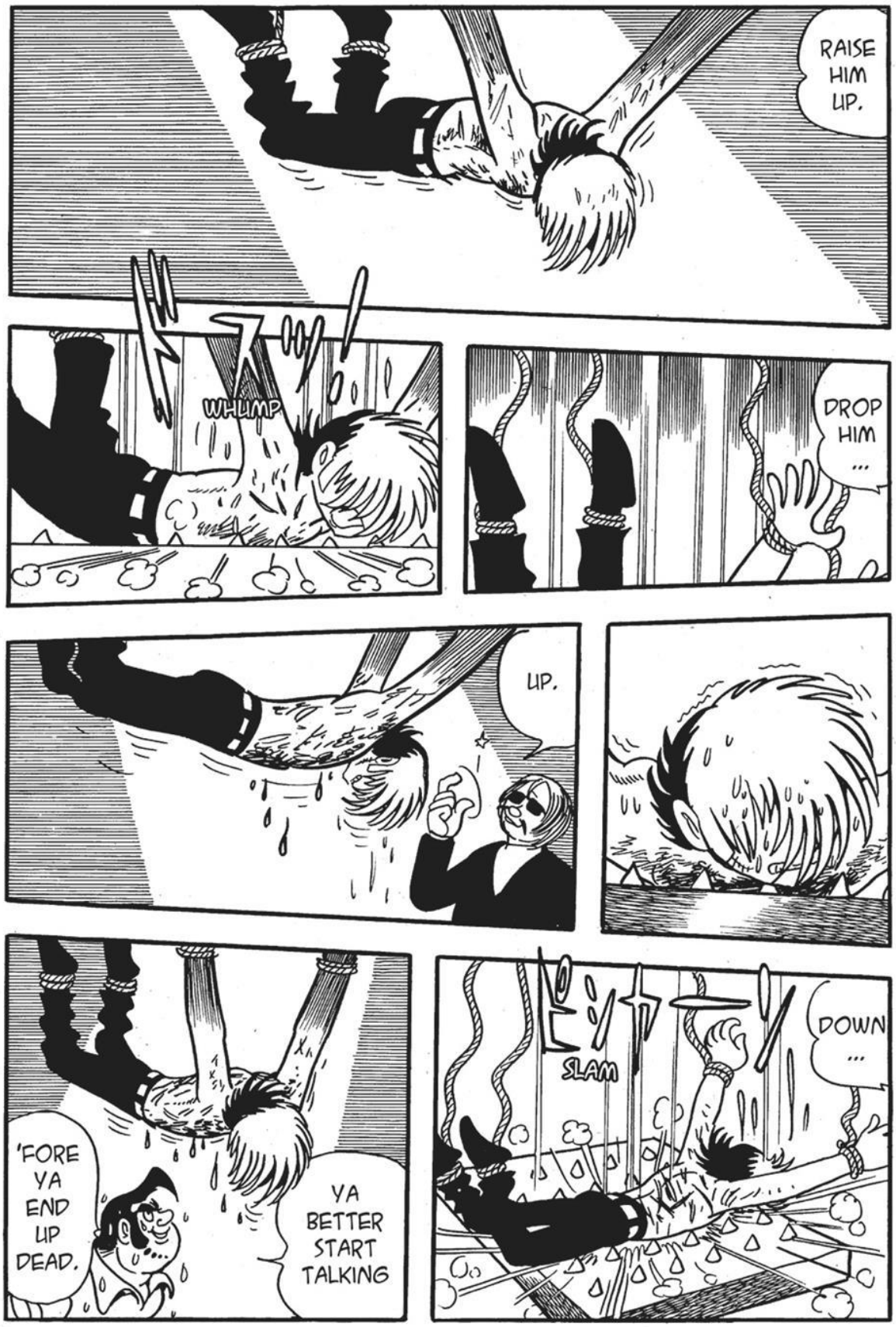

YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON TURNING ME INTO THAT PATIENT OF YOURS, ARE YOU?

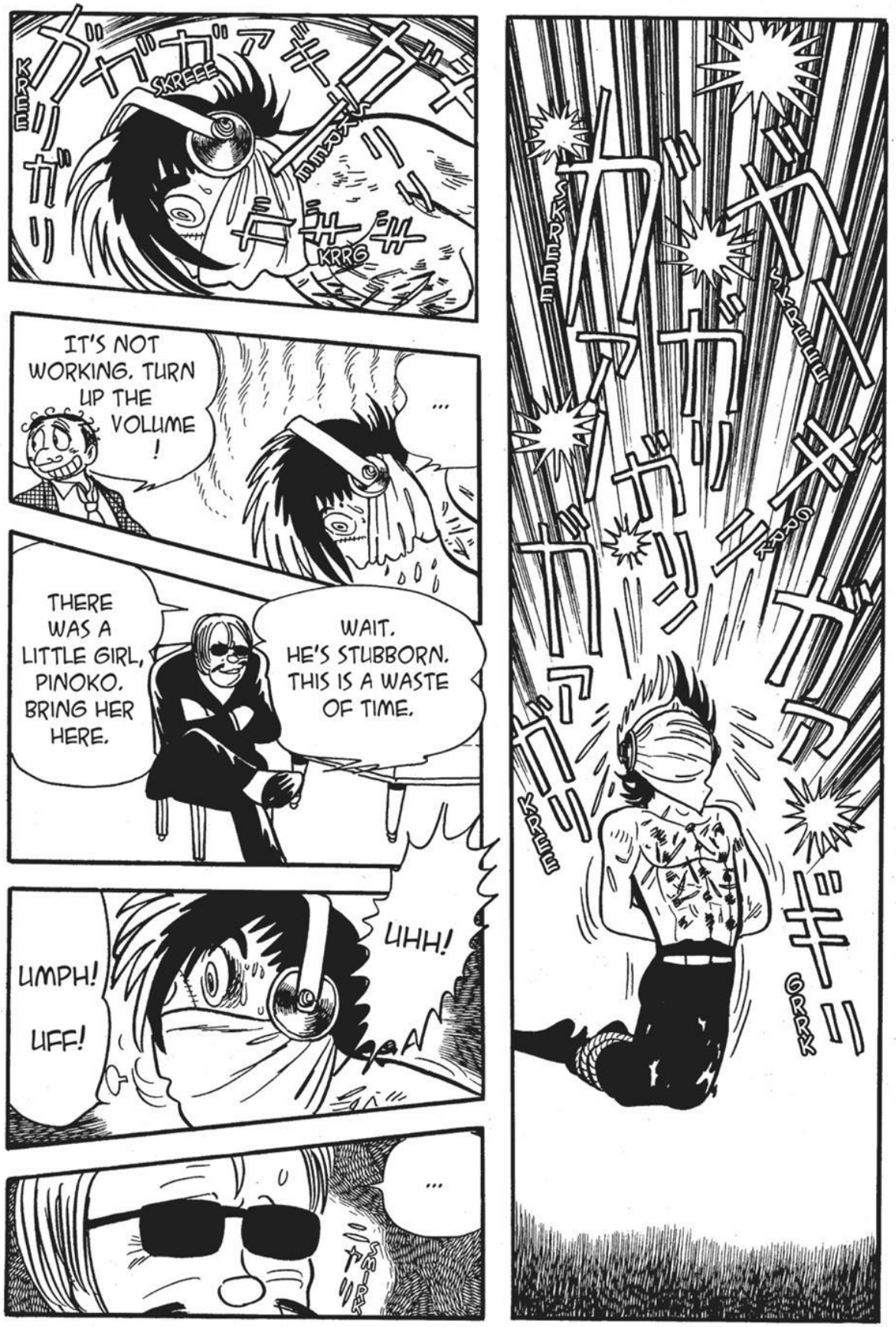
ALL TOLD YOU'VE PROBABLY POCKETED $10 BILLION. WE WANT YOU TO "DONATE" US THAT MONEY.
YOU'VE TRAVELLED ALL OVER THE WORLD EARNING TONS OF MONEY.

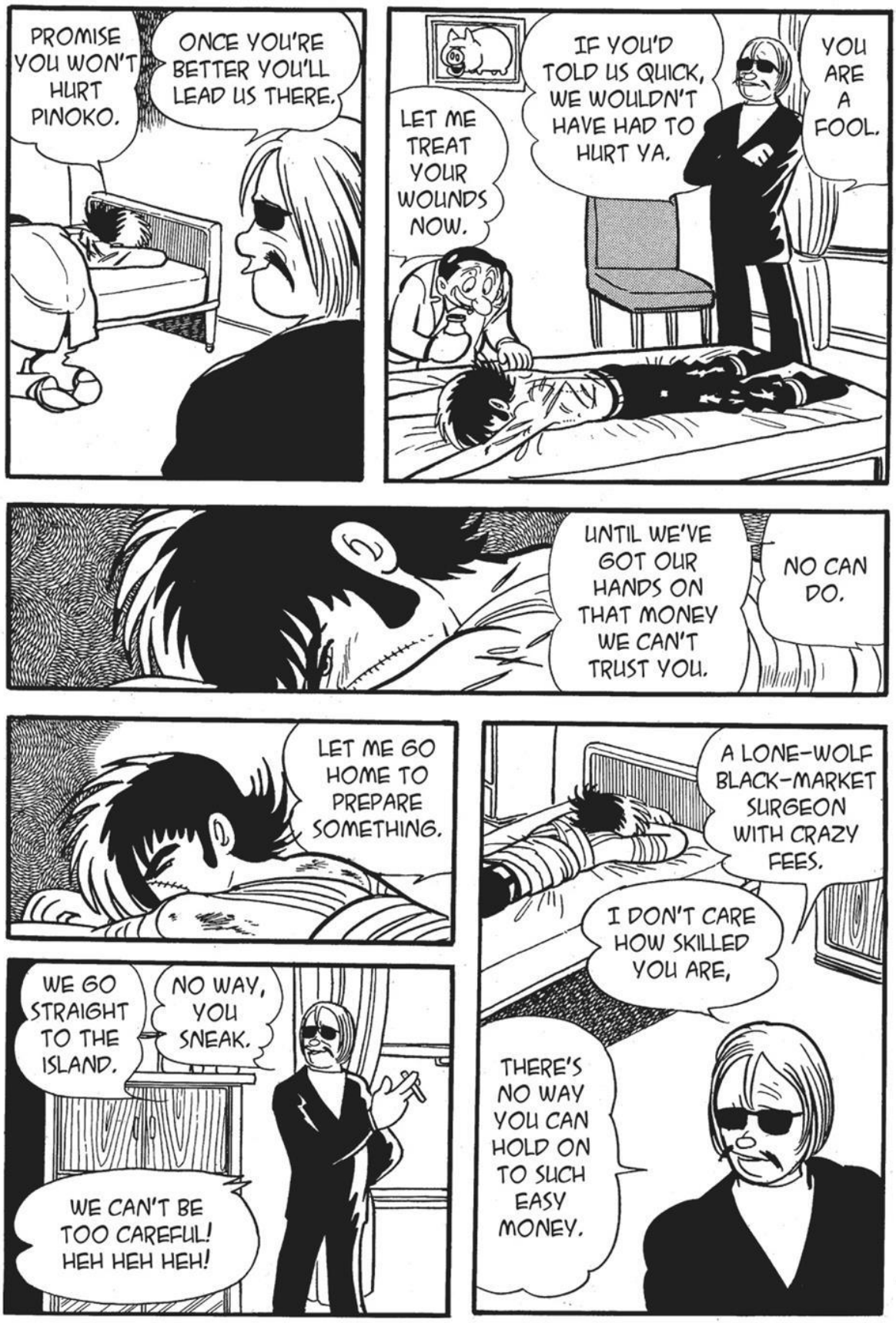
WE'VE LOOKED AT BANKS ALL OVER AND YA ONLY PUT AWAY A FEW MILLION YEN.
IT'S ODD.
BUT WHERE COULD YA BE HIDING SO MUCH LOOT?
I FIGURED AS MUCH.
I HAD THIS MAN SHADOW YOU FOR A YEAR.
YOU EITHER BOUGHT JEWELS OR YOU'VE HIDDEN CASH SOMEWHERE.
SO ...
LOCKED HIMSELF IN A BATHROOM FOR 31 DAYS,
DISGUISED HIMSELF AS AN ALLEY CAT,
HE WORKED AS A POSTMAN,
HID IN A CUSHION,
SWITCHED PLACES WITH A PATIENT,
OUCH!
SNUCK INTO THE TRUNK OF YOUR CAR,

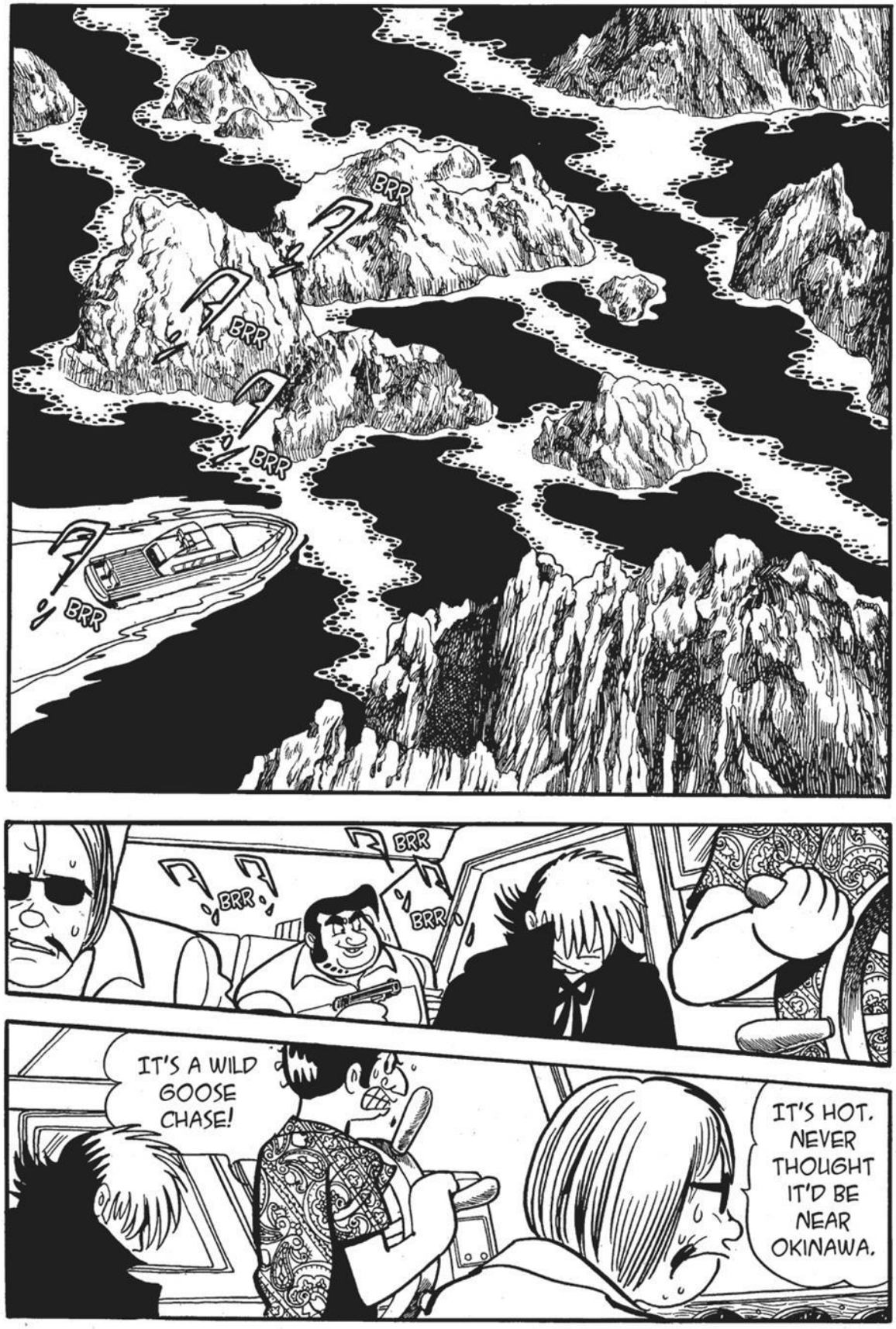
Mina Gojo
AND FINALLY FOUND OUT A WOMAN'S NAME!
WHO'S THIS? IS SHE SOME FOXY LADY? HEHEH
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE SENT ALL THE MONEY TO HER!
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE ISLAND?
WE JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHICH ISLAND. HEHEH
WE EVEN KNOW SHE LIVES ON AN ISLAND.
TELL US THE NAME!

WHIP
SLASH
DON'T THINK TORTURE LIKE THIS IS ONLY USED IN MOVIES.
WHIP
WHIP
RUB SALT IN HIS WOUNDS.
MUSTARD, TOO.
UNGH...
URR....


RAISE HIM UP.
WHUMP
DROP HIM ...
UP.
'FORE YA END UP DEAD.
YA BETTER START TALKING
SLAM
DOWN ...

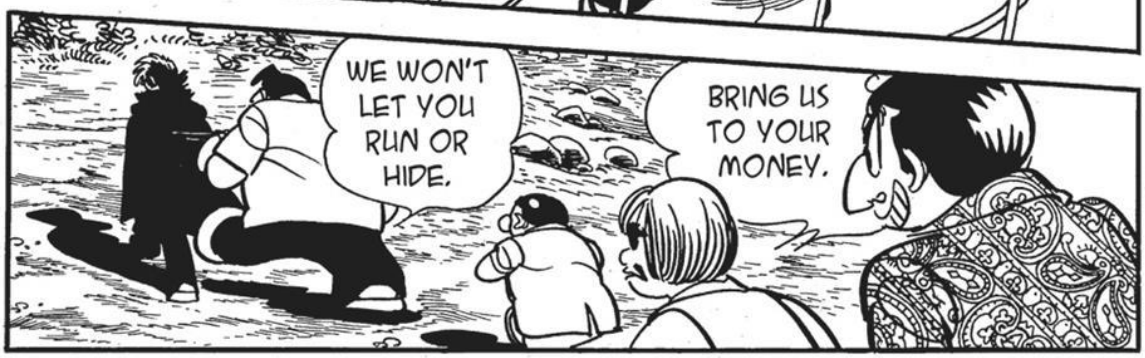

SKREEE
KRRG
IT'S NOT WORKING. TURN UP THE VOLUME!
...
THERE WAS A LITTLE GIRL, PINOKO. BRING HER HERE.
WAIT. HE'S STUBBORN. THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.
UMPH!
UFF!
UHH!
...
SKREEE
GRRRK


PROMISE YOU WON'T HURT PINOKO.
ONCE YOU'RE BETTER YOU'LL LEAD US THERE.
LET ME TREAT YOUR WOUNDS NOW.
IF YOU'D TOLD US QUICK, WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO HURT YA.
YOU ARE A FOOL.
UNTIL WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS ON THAT MONEY WE CAN'T TRUST YOU.
NO CAN DO.
LET ME GO HOME TO PREPARE SOMETHING.
WE GO STRAIGHT TO THE ISLAND.
NO WAY, YOU SNEAK.
WE CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL! HEH HEH HEH!
A LONE-WOLF BLACK-MARKET SURGEON WITH CRAZY FEES.
I DON'T CARE HOW SKILLED YOU ARE,
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN HOLD ON TO SUCH EASY MONEY.


BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
IT'S A WILD GOOSE CHASE!
IT'S HOT. NEVER THOUGHT IT'D BE NEAR OKINAWA.

TAKE IT OFF.
WHY YOU GOTTA WEAR THAT HEAVY COAT?
HEY, DOC, AREN'T YA HOT?
YOU COULD USE THESE AS WEAPONS, TOO.
HE WAS HIDING SCALPELS 'N NEEDLES UNDER THERE!
THOSE ARE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TOOLS! GIVE THEM BACK!
DAMN ... I NEEDED THOSE ...
I'LL BUY YA A NEW SET WITH YOUR LOOT.
IS THAT THE ONE?
DON'T TOSS THEM!!
ジャボッ
SPLASH

IT'S TREASURE ISLAND! HEE HEE HEE
THAT'S THE TREASURY WITH $10 BILLION?

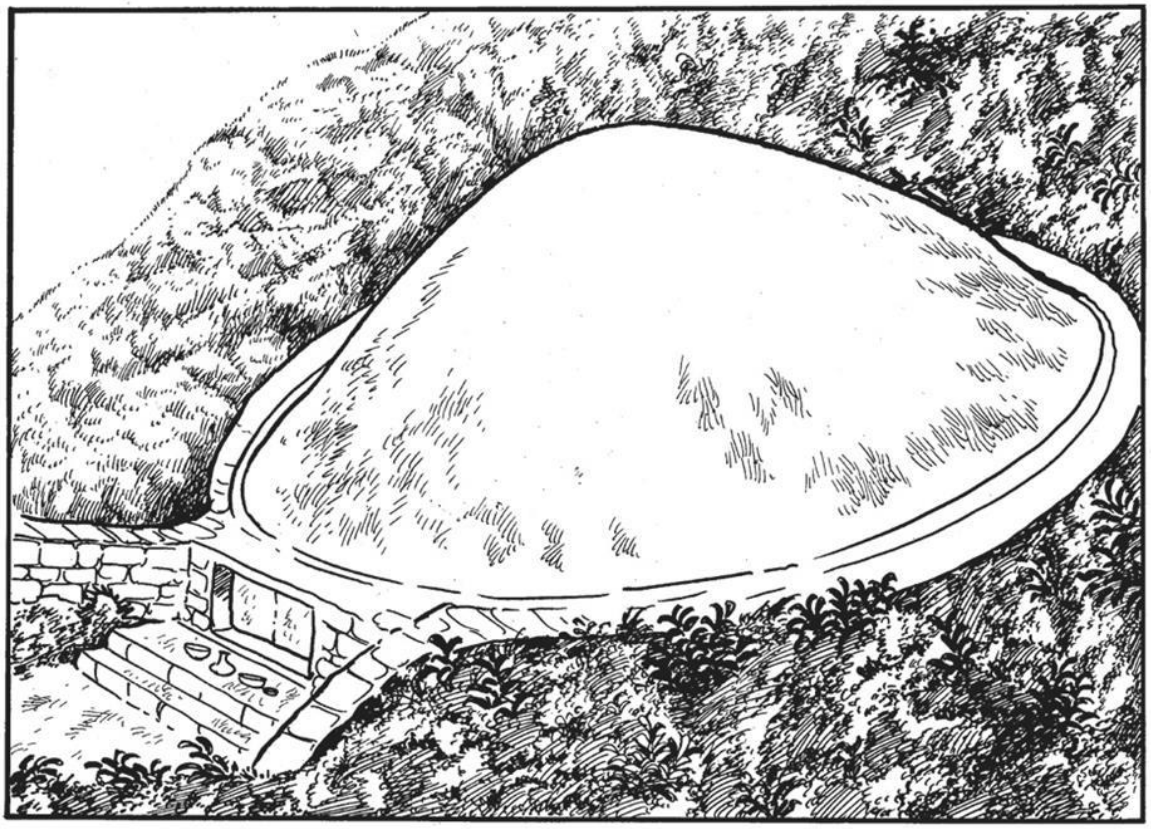

WE WON'T LET YOU RUN OR HIDE.
BRING US TO YOUR MONEY.

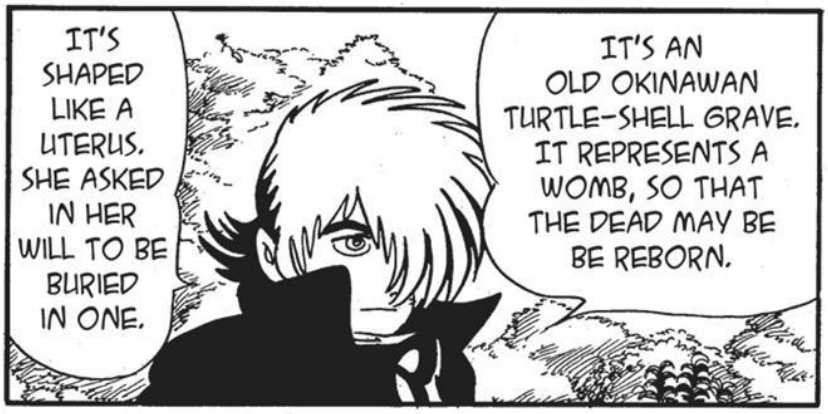
SO WHERE'S THIS MINA GOJO CHICK?

I'LL TELL YOU, THEN. SHE'S UNDER A TOMB-STONE.
WHAT ?!
DIED 8 YEARS AGO. SHE WAS A NURSE WHO LOOKED AFTER ME.
I BURIED HER HERE.
I GET IT! HEH HEH! YOU HID ALL THE MONEY IN HER GRAVE!
CAN'T FOOL US, WE LOOKED.
SHE DOESN'T EXIST!

SHUT UP AND WALK.
DON'T YOU DARE MESS WITH HER GRAVE.

THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I BURIED HER HERE!
NO! SHE WAS FROM OKINAWA!




IT'S SHAPED LIKE A UTERUS. SHE ASKED IN HER WILL TO BE BURIED IN ONE.
IT'S AN OLD OKINAWAN TURTLE-SHELL GRAVE. IT REPRESENTS A WOMB, SO THAT THE DEAD MAY BE BE REBORN.

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO HIDE TONS OF MONEY.
SO IT'S A GRAVE.
GET AWAY FROM THERE! THERE'S NO MONEY INSIDE!
WE ENTER HERE?
IT'S BEEN PLASTERED SHUT.
WE'LL BUST OUR WAY THROUGH.
SHUT IT, YOU!
IT'S SACRED GROUND!
SOMEONE GET TNT FROM THE BOAT.
YOU'RE BLASTING OPEN A HOUSE OF THE DEAD?
HEH HEH, YEAH. OR ARE YOU GONNA OPEN IT?
TNT? YOU GOT IT.

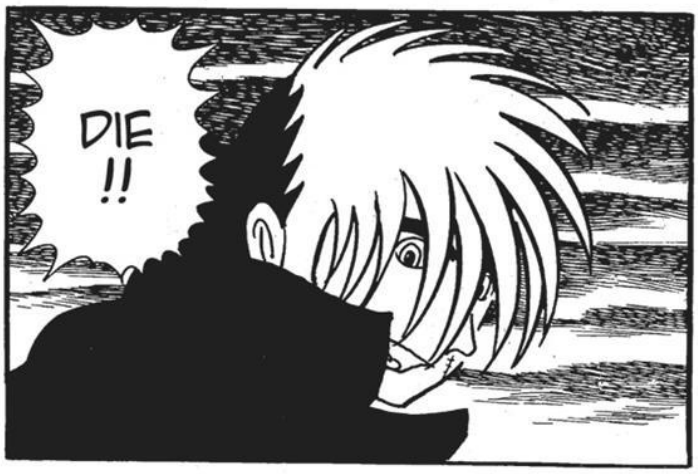
SCOUNDREL!
SO LONG. I GOT LOST.
SORRY IT TOOK ME ...
IDIOT! HUSTLE NOW!
"HUFF"
"HUFF"
HA...
HE'S TAKING AN AWFUL LONG TIME.
PROLLY GOT LOST.
SET THE CHARGE!

HISSS
AARGH!
S... SNAKES !!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?
THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT MY TOOLS.
WHY'D YOU TOSS THEM?
DAMN! THE SNAKE BIT ME!
YOU GOTTA TREAT US!
DOCTOR !!
YOU'RE GONNA RUN AWAY? I WON'T LET YOU NEAR THE BOAT.
WE WON'T LEAVE WITHOUT THE CASH.
CUT OPEN THE WOUND AND SUCK OUT THE POISON. THEN LEAVE!
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU.
I'D INJECTED MYSELF WITH A SERUM SO I'M FINE.

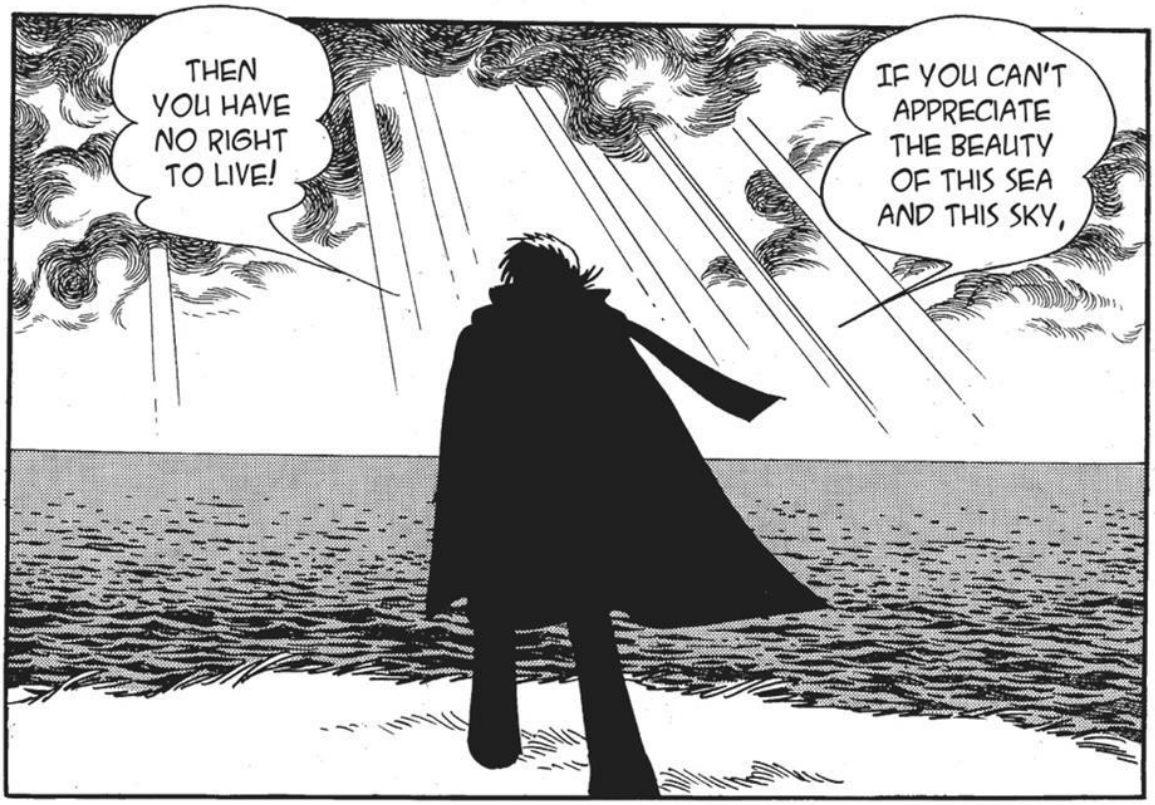
SET THE CHARGE!
WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT SNAKES? A BITE WON'T KILL YA.
YAAAAAH
D... DAMN ... SNAKES ...
DIDN'T YOU NOTICE? SUCH AN ISLAND STILL LUSH WITH NATURAL BEAUTY IS RARE.
WHY, YOU ASK?
YOU FOOL. THERE'S NO MONEY ON THIS ISLAND. I USED MY MONEY TO BUY THIS ISLAND.

DOUBT ME ALL YOU WANT. I'M LEAVING.

I BOUGHT UP ISLANDS ALL OVER IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THEIR ENVIRONMENTS.
I FELL IN LOVE WITH IT.

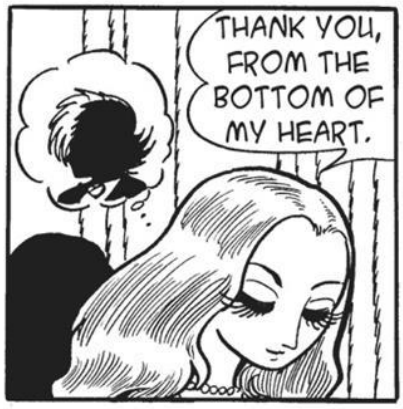

DIE !!

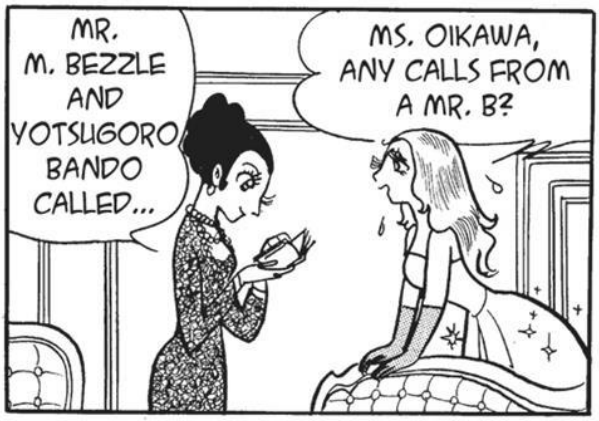
TAKE US WITH YOU!
W-WAIT, PLEASE ...

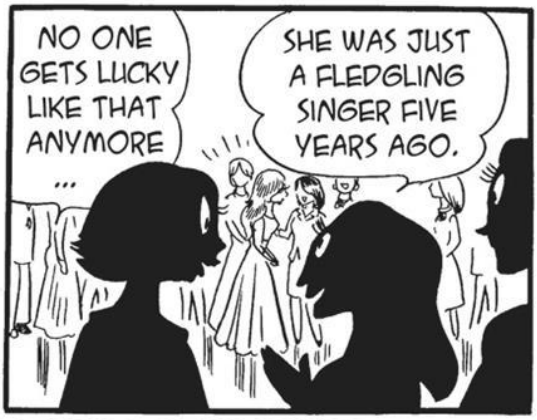

THEN YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO LIVE!
IF YOU CAN'T APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF THIS SEA AND THIS SKY,

A STAR IS BORN

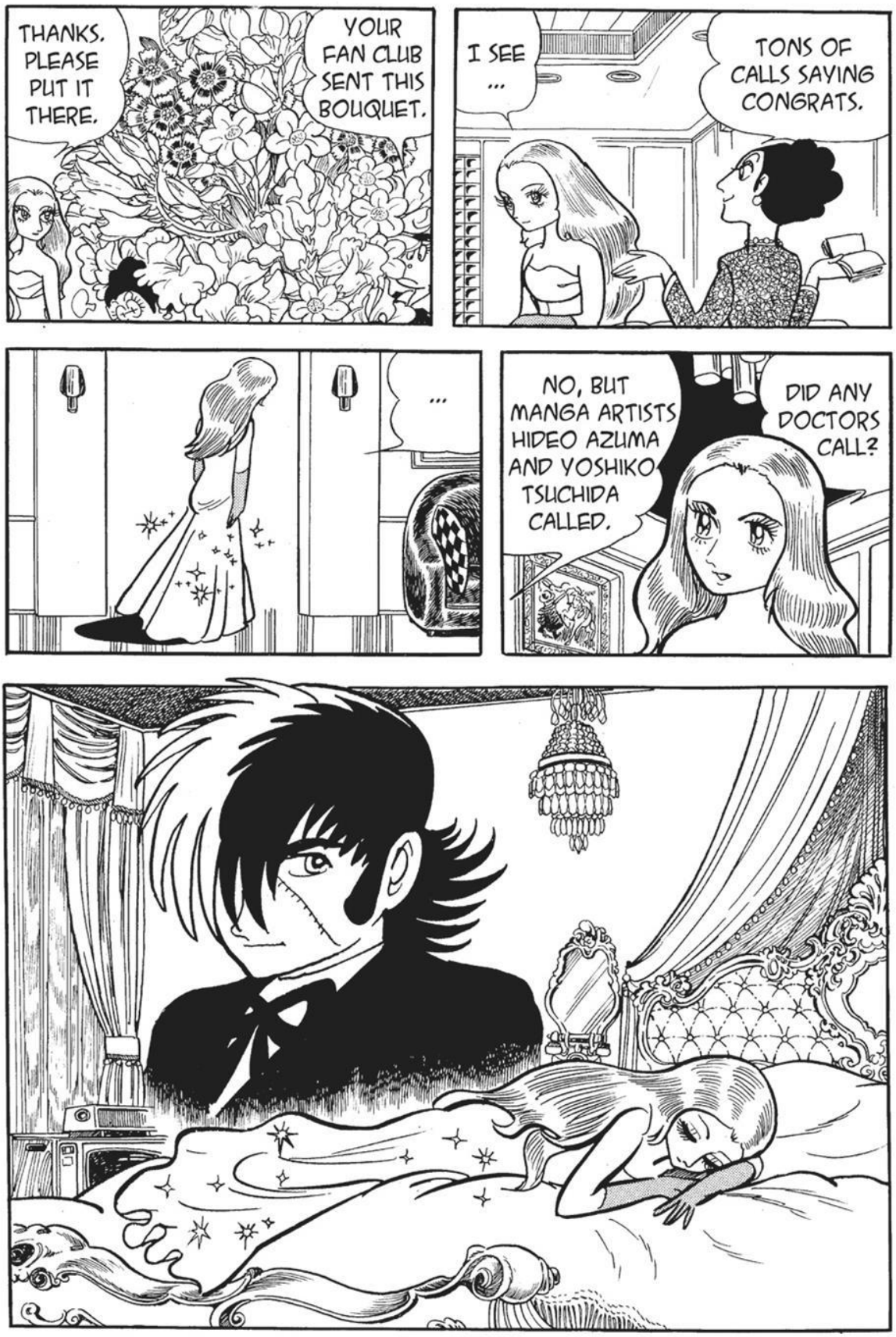
NOTE: THERE'S AN AREA OF SUGINAMI WARD IN TOKYO CALLED IGUSA. TEZUKA WAS LOCATED THERE FOR A BRIEF STINT AFTER HIS COMPANY RELOCATED FROM NERIMA WARD.



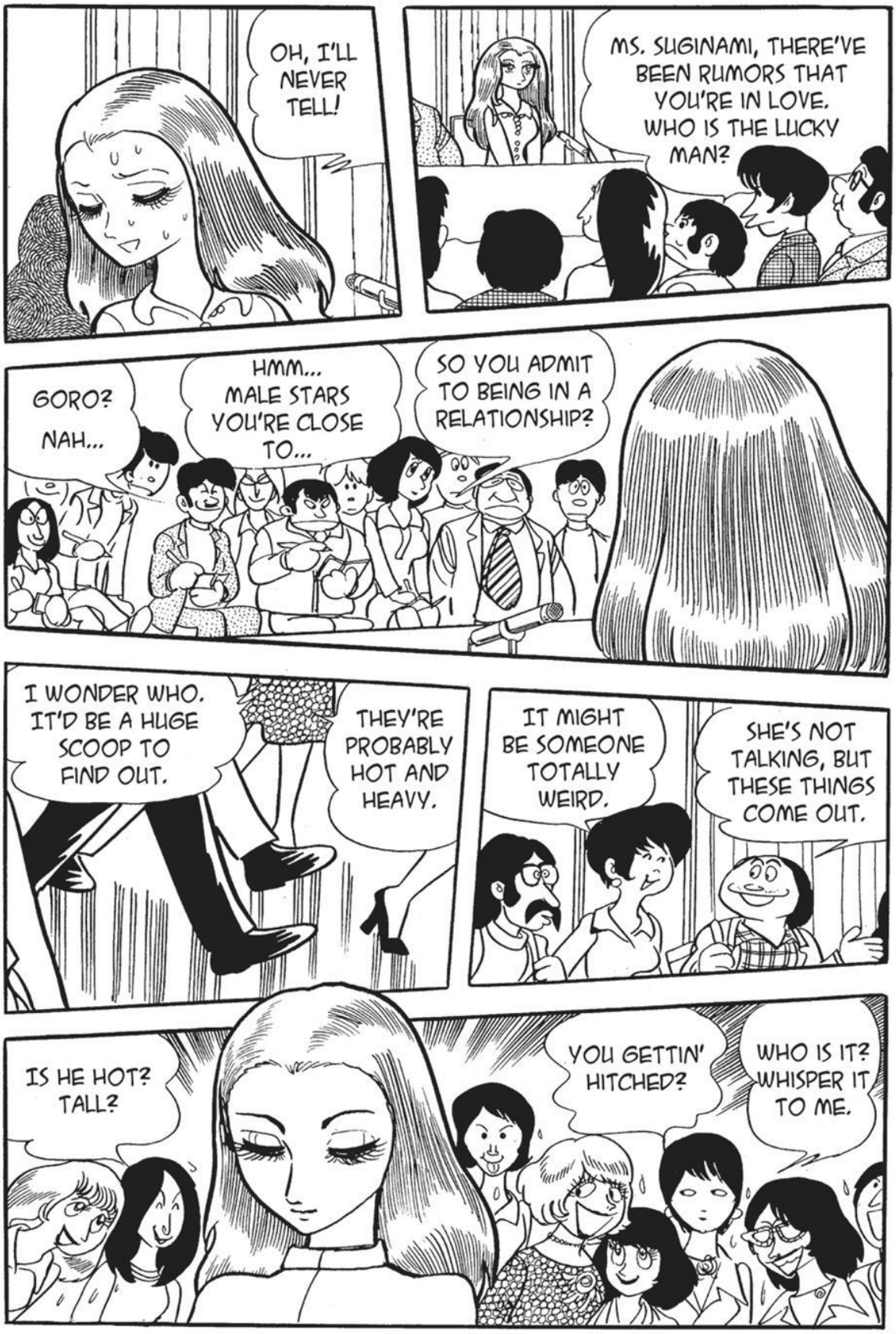


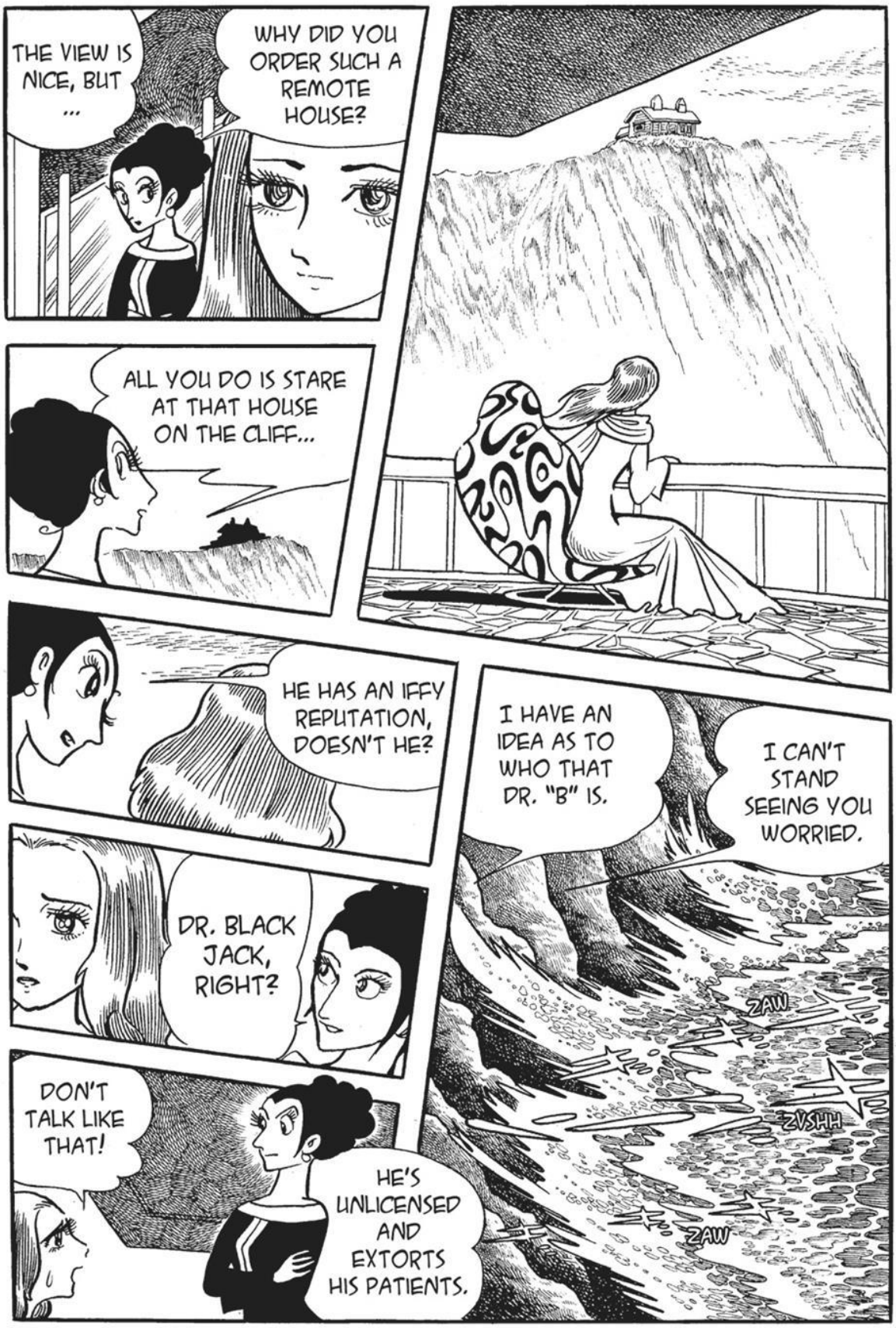


NOTE: "YOTSUGORO" = PUN ON THE FAMOUS KABUKI ACTOR MITSUGORO BANDO.
"MITSU" MEANS 3, "YOTSU" MEANS 4.

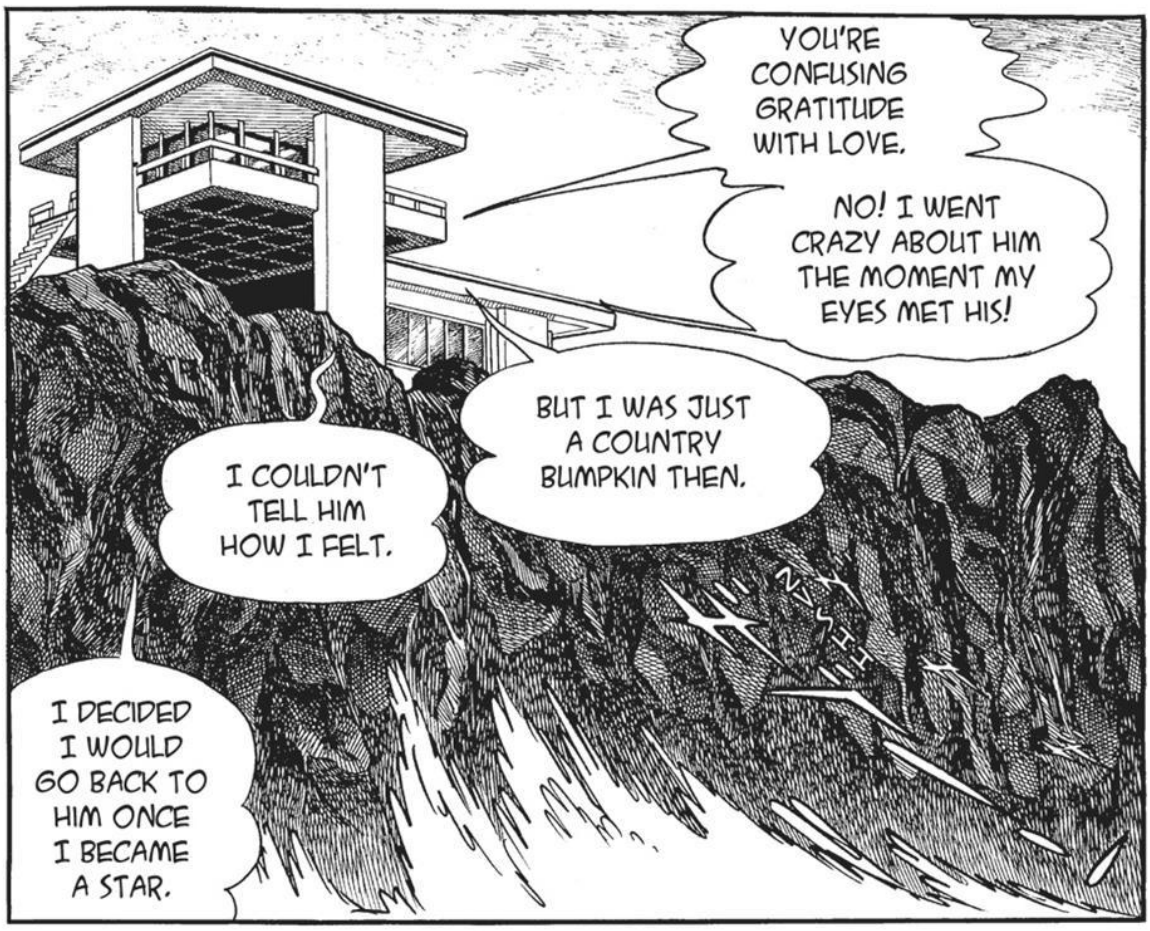


NOTE: MANGA ARTIST HIDEO AZUMA PIONEERED THE LOLICON (LOLITA COMPLEX) STYLE DURING THE 70'S IN MAINSTREAM MAGS, INCLUDING *WEEKLY CHAMPION*, BEFORE MOVING TO MORE PARTICULAR VENUES. YOSHIKO TSUCHIDA'S SPECIALTY IS GAG MANGA.


OH, I'LL NEVER TELL!
MS. SUGINAMI, THERE'VE BEEN RUMORS THAT YOU'RE IN LOVE. WHO IS THE LUCKY MAN?
GORO? NAH...
HMM... MALE STARS YOU'RE CLOSE TO...
SO YOU ADMIT TO BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP?
I WONDER WHO. IT'D BE A HUGE SCOOP TO FIND OUT.
THEY'RE PROBABLY HOT AND HEAVY.
IT MIGHT BE SOMEONE TOTALLY WEIRD.
SHE'S NOT TALKING, BUT THESE THINGS COME OUT.
IS HE HOT? TALL?
YOU GETTIN' HITCHED?
WHO IS IT? WHISPER IT TO ME.


THE VIEW IS NICE, BUT ...
WHY DID YOU ORDER SUCH A REMOTE HOUSE?
ALL YOU DO IS STARE AT THAT HOUSE ON THE CLIFF...
HE HAS AN IFFY REPUTATION, DOESN'T HE?
DR. BLACK JACK, RIGHT?
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!
HE'S UNLICENSED AND EXTORTS HIS PATIENTS.
I HAVE AN IDEA AS TO WHO THAT DR. "B" IS.
I CAN'T STAND SEEING YOU WORRIED.
ZAW
ZVSHH
ZAW

CHIKO...
YOU MEAN ...
HE'S THE ONE WHO CHANGED MY DESTINY.
HE'S THE BEST IN THE WORLD.
B-BUT I DON'T SEE ANY SCARS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
IT'S TRUE.
YES, I GOT PLASTIC SURGERY.
THERE'S NO TRACE OF THE OLD ME LEFT.
IT GETS WORSE EVERY DAY.
I DREAM OF HIM EVERY NIGHT.
YES! I LOVE HIM!
AND SO YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM?
THIS IS SERIOUS.
I DREAM OF SEEING HIM AND CONFESSING MY EVERY FEELING ...


YOU'RE CONFUSING GRATITUDE WITH LOVE.
NO! I WENT CRAZY ABOUT HIM THE MOMENT MY EYES MET HIS!
BUT I WAS JUST A COUNTRY BUMPKIN THEN.
I COULDN'T TELL HIM HOW I FELT.
I DECIDED I WOULD GO BACK TO HIM ONCE I BECAME A STAR.
SHIN

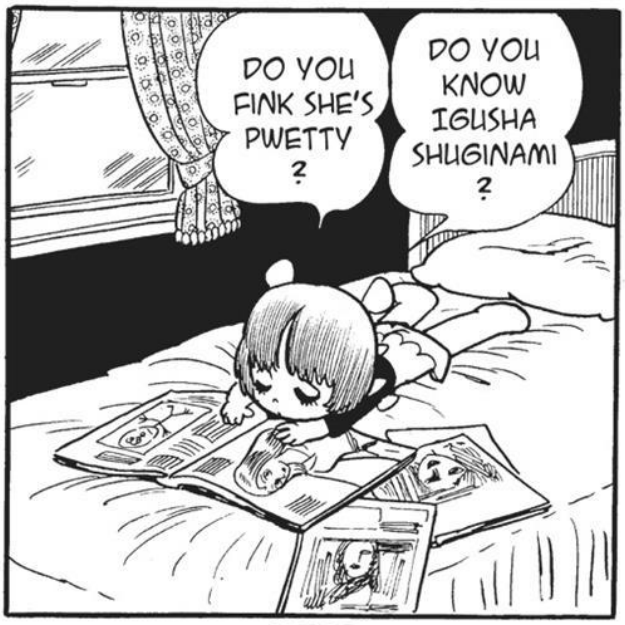
IT'LL BE THE END OF YOUR CAREER!
YOU MUST KEEP IT A SECRET!
YOU'RE PURSUED BY THE PAPARAZZI. IF THEY FOUND OUT YOUR LOVELY FACE IS FAKE...

NO! YOU MUSTN'T SEE HIM!
You ruined the mood!

...
AND YOU SHOULD SELL THIS SECOND HOUSE.
I KNOW.

PINOKO'D BE THAT PWETTY IF PINOKO WAS TALL.

YOU'RE FINE THAT WAY.
MAKE PINOKO BIGGER!


DO YOU FINK SHE'S PWETTY ?
DO YOU KNOW IGUSHA SHUGINAMI ?

DR. BLACK JACK!

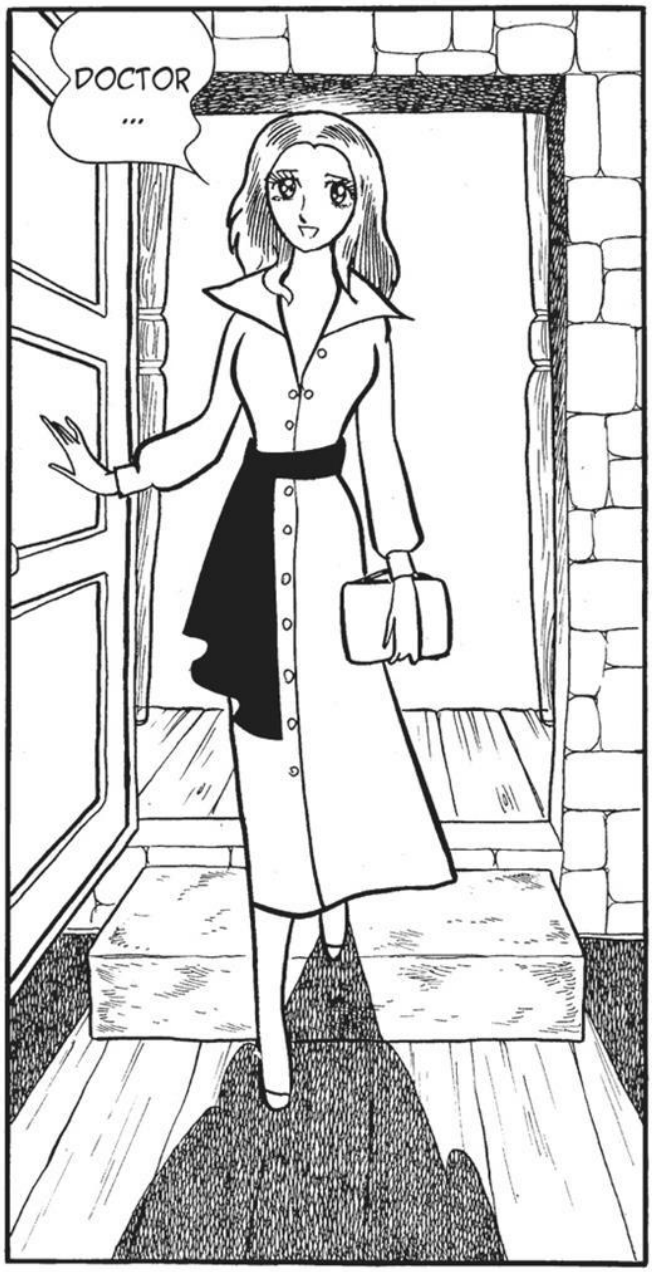
YOU CAN MAKE PINOKO BIGGER!
BUT PINOKO'S 18!
WAA! THIS SHUCKS!

YOU JEALOUS OR SOMETHING ?

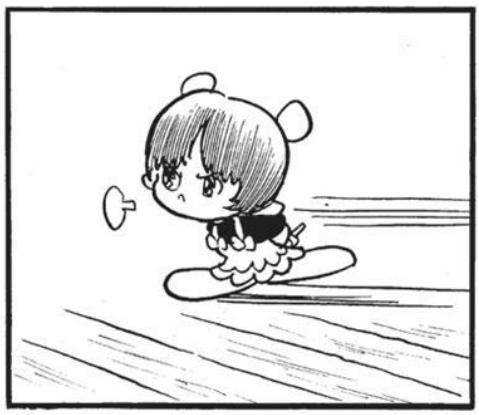
WOOT! IT'S IGUSHA SHUGINAMI! WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?!

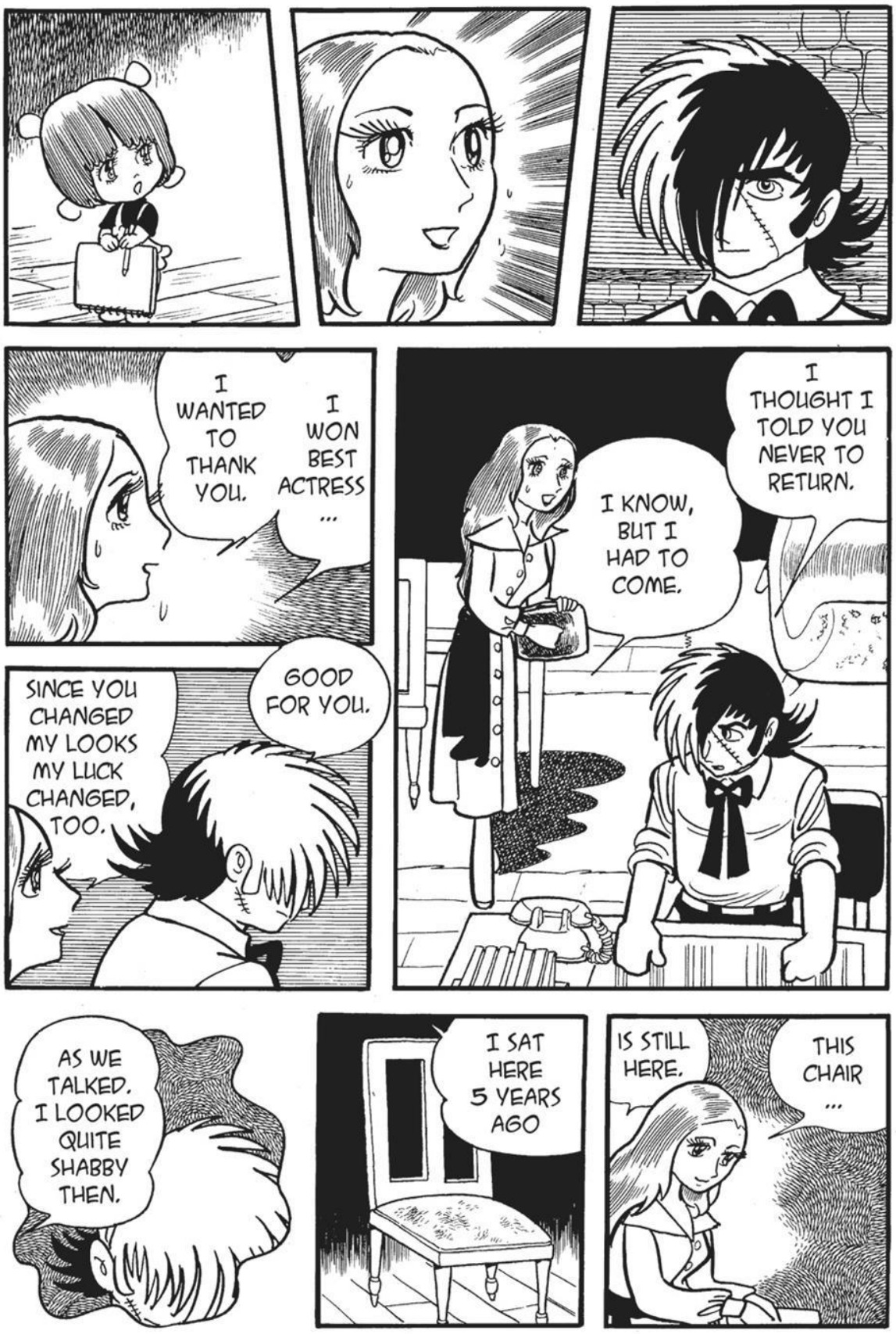
PINOKO'S WEADY FOR THIS.

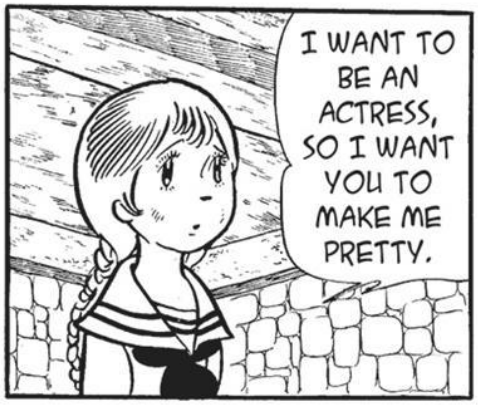
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

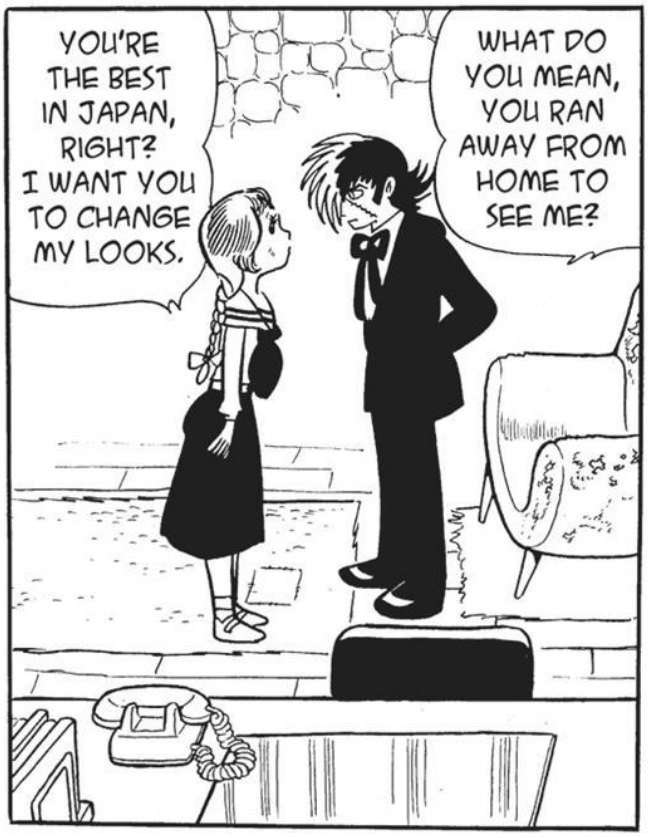

DOCTOR ...

SHIGN HERE.




I WANTED TO THANK YOU.
I WON BEST ACTRESS ...
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NEVER TO RETURN.
I KNOW, BUT I HAD TO COME.
SINCE YOU CHANGED MY LOOKS MY LUCK CHANGED, TOO.
GOOD FOR YOU.
AS WE TALKED. I LOOKED QUITE SHABBY THEN.
I SAT HERE 5 YEARS AGO
IS STILL HERE.
THIS CHAIR ...


I WANT TO BE AN ACTRESS, SO I WANT YOU TO MAKE ME PRETTY.


YOU'RE THE BEST IN JAPAN, RIGHT? I WANT YOU TO CHANGE MY LOOKS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU RAN AWAY FROM HOME TO SEE ME?

HOW ABSURD.

GO HOME. ONLY ONE OUT OF THOUSANDS EVER SUCCEED IN SHOWBIZ.

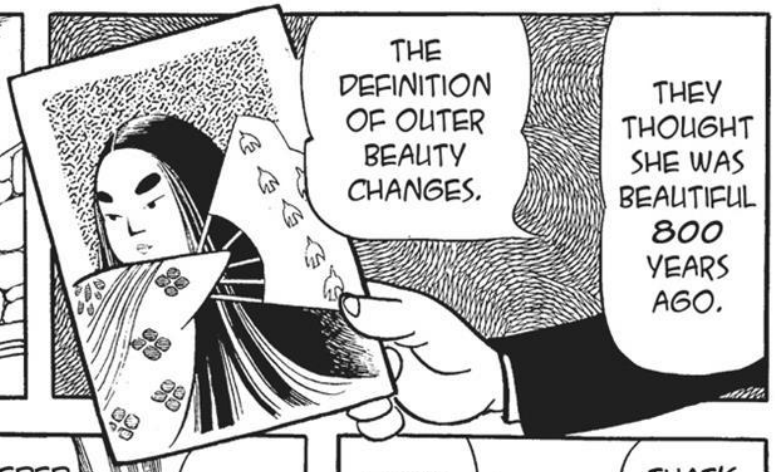
I TOOK 50,000 YEN FROM HOME.
I KNOW IT'S NOT ENOUGH, BUT WHEN I'M FAMOUS I'LL PAY THE REST.

LOOK AT ME! DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS FACE BELONGS ON TV?
SURE. IT'S A FINE FACE.

I THOUGHT I COULD RELY ON YOU.

TO BE BLUNT, I DON'T WANT TO OPERATE ON YOU!
THAT'S WHAT BEAUTY IS.
LISTEN, EVERY HUMAN FACE HAS CHARACTER.

BUT I WON'T LIVE 800 YEARS!


THE DEFINITION OF OUTER BEAUTY CHANGES.
THEY THOUGHT SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL 800 YEARS AGO.

BUT I LIKE YOUR EYES.

I NEEDED A SKIN GRAFT. IT'S NOT MINE!
THIS IS FAKE!

LOOK AT MY FACE.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!

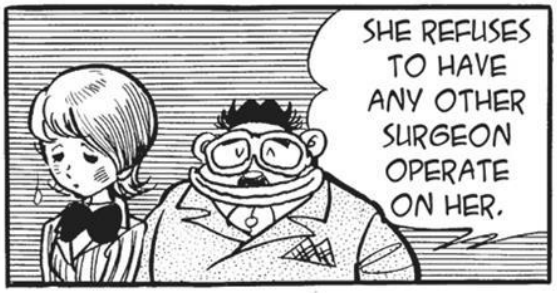
THEN GO HOME TOMOR-ROW.
STAY THE NIGHT
"SOB"

WHAT YOU HAVE FROM BIRTH IS BEST!
BECAUSE THEY'RE MINE!!

I LIED.
I DIDN'T GO HOME.

WAIL

YOU'RE STILL IN TOKYO?


SHE REFUSES TO HAVE ANY OTHER SURGEON OPERATE ON HER.

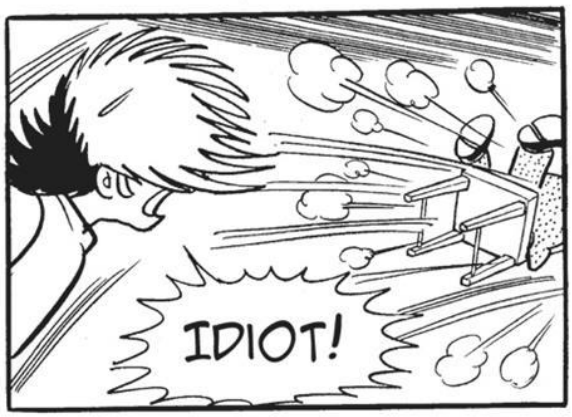
YOU'RE A HANDFUL.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE AGENCY MUST HAVE NOTICED ME... HE DEMANDED THAT I GET PLASTIC SURGERY.
I JOINED A SMALL AGENCY AND STUDIED SINGING AND ACTING.

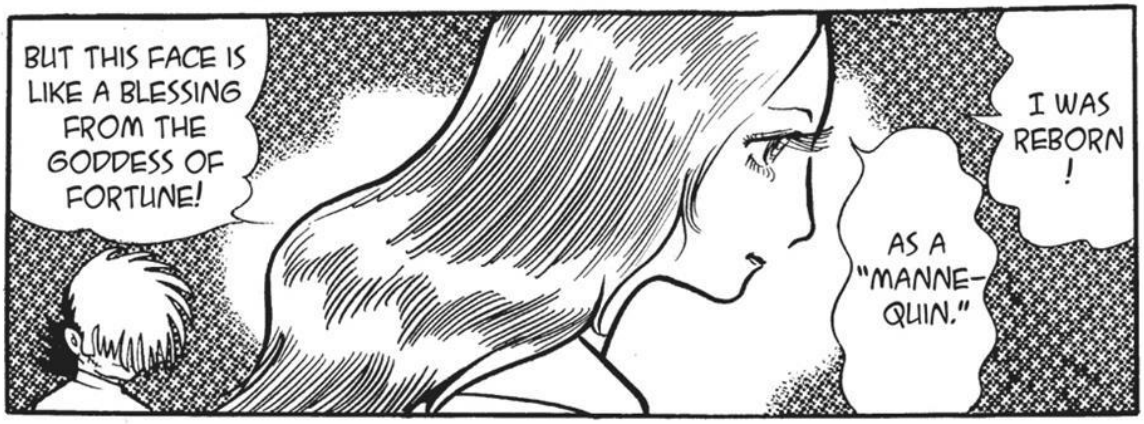
WHY NOT, IF SHE WILL BE REBORN AS A BEAUTY.

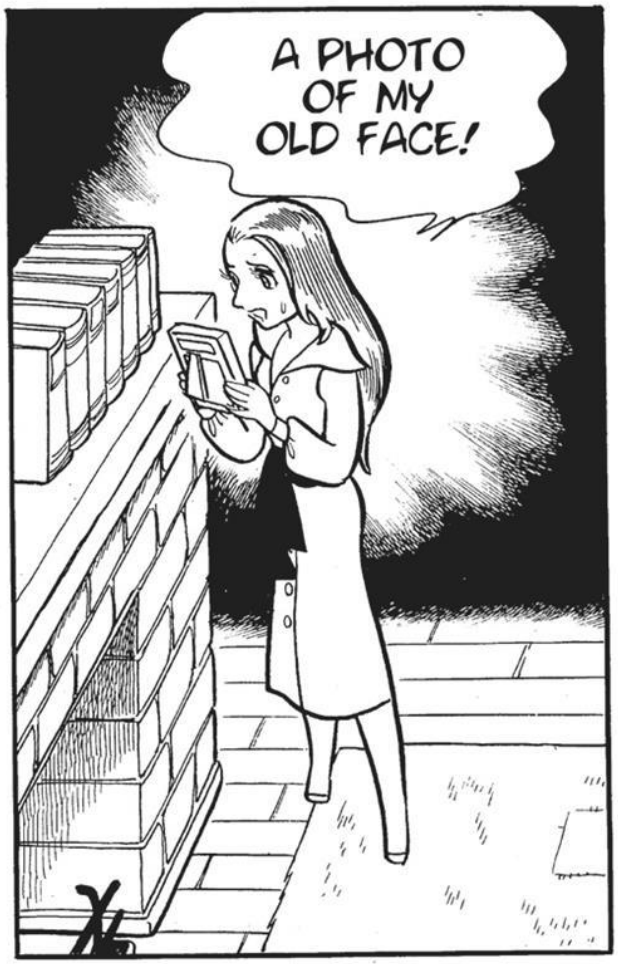
BUT HER FACE WILL BE FAKE!
AND IT'LL BE THANKS TO YOUR SKILL.
SHE MIGHT BE THE ONE THAT LAYS GOLDEN EGGS

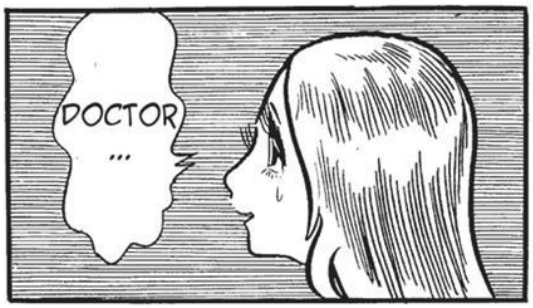
I'LL OPERATE, BUT YOU MUST NEVER DARKEN MY DOORSTEP WITH YOUR NEW FACE.


IDIOT!

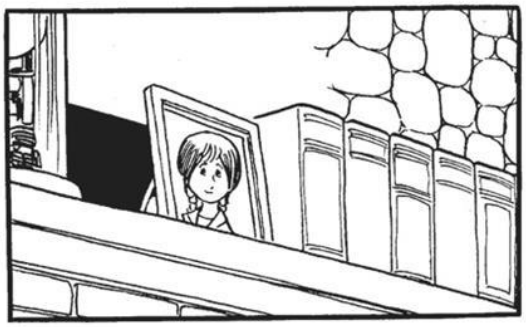
I DON'T WANT TO SEE A MANNEQUIN ...


BUT THIS FACE IS LIKE A BLESSING FROM THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE!
I WAS REBORN !
AS A "MANNE-QUIN."


A PHOTO OF MY OLD FACE!

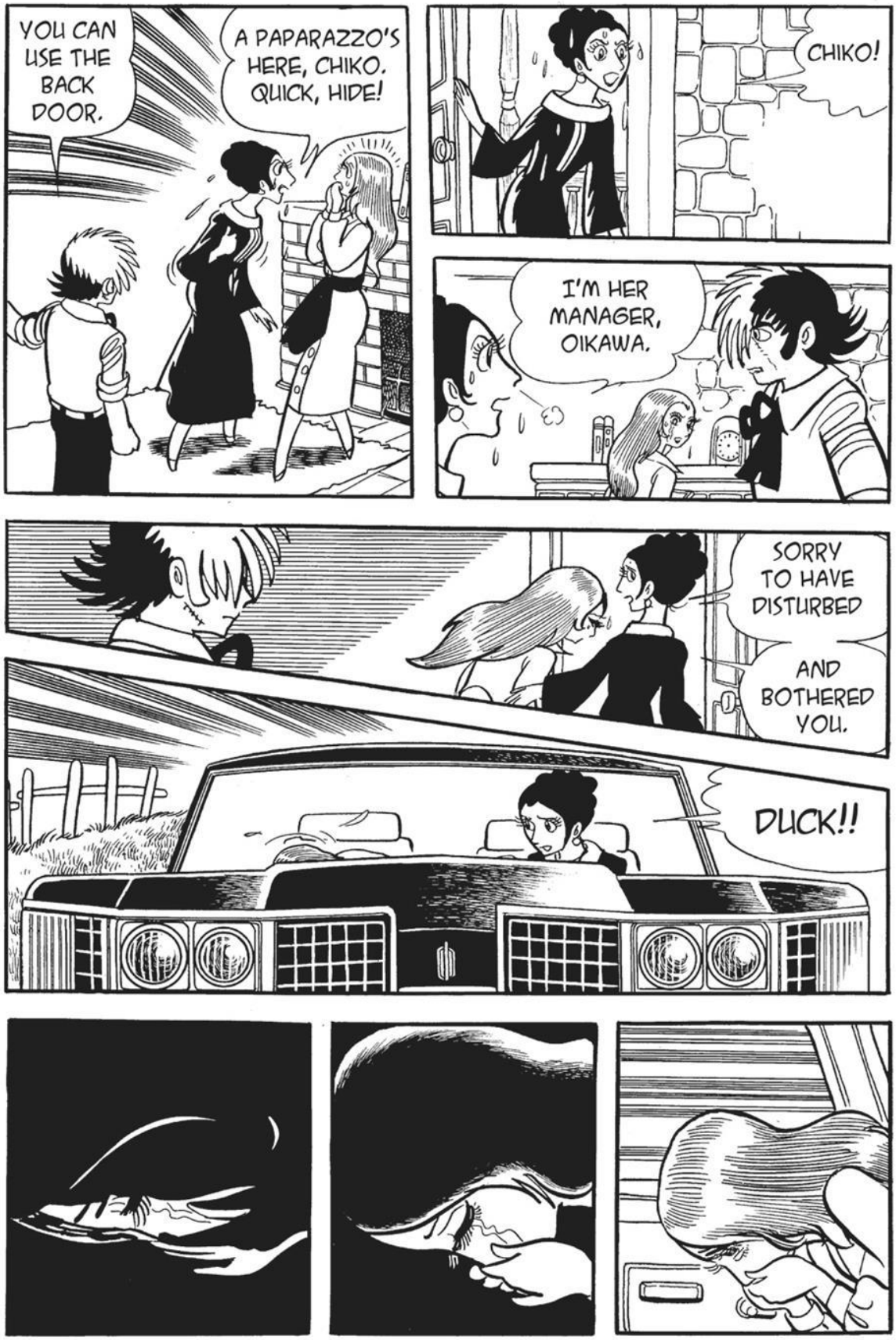

DOCTOR ...

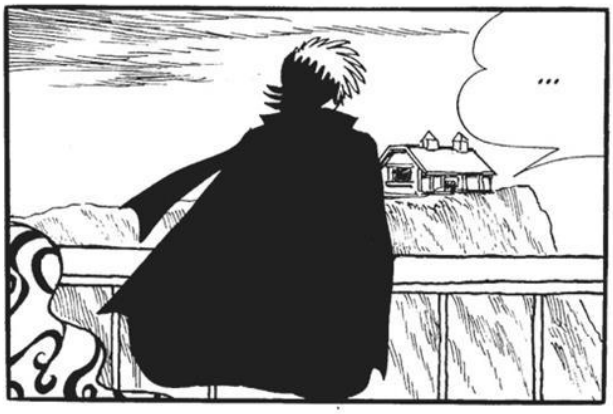
GASP

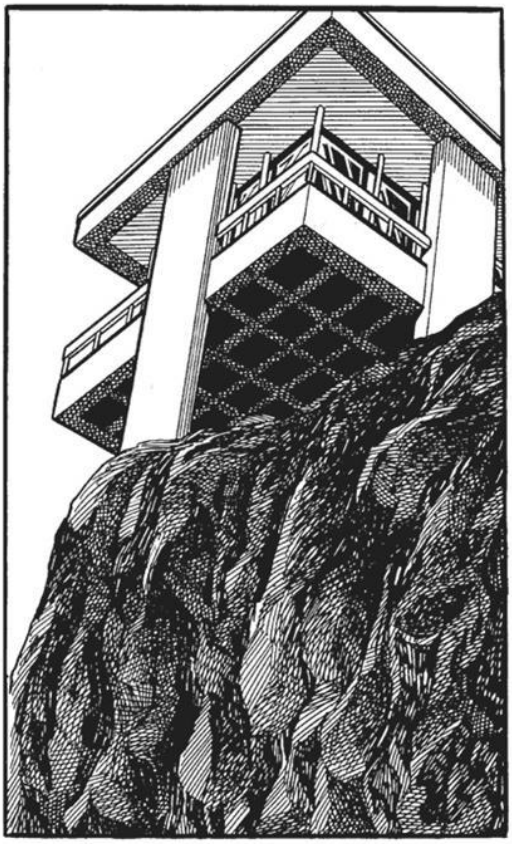


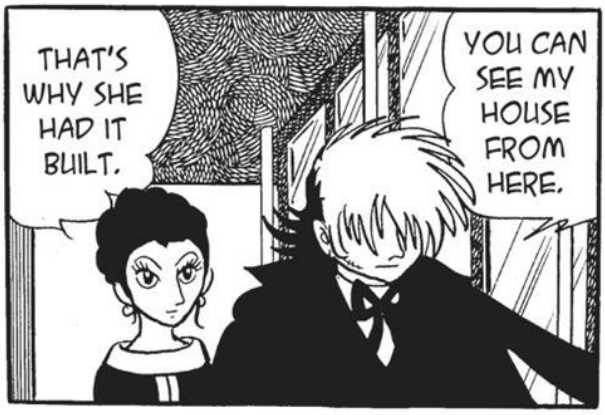
...

SHE WAS SO LOVELY.
THAT GIRL IS DEAD.

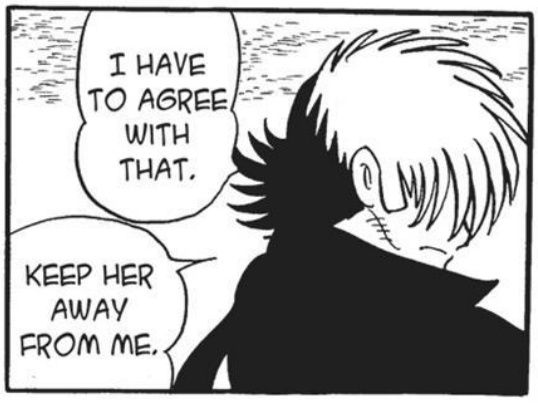

YOU CAN USE THE BACK DOOR.
A PAPARAZZO'S HERE, CHIKO. QUICK, HIDE!
CHIKO!
I'M HER MANAGER, OIKAWA.
SORRY TO HAVE DISTURBED
AND BOTHERED YOU.
DUCK!!

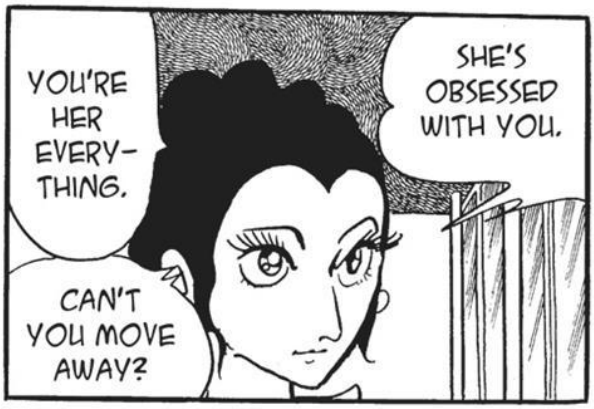

...



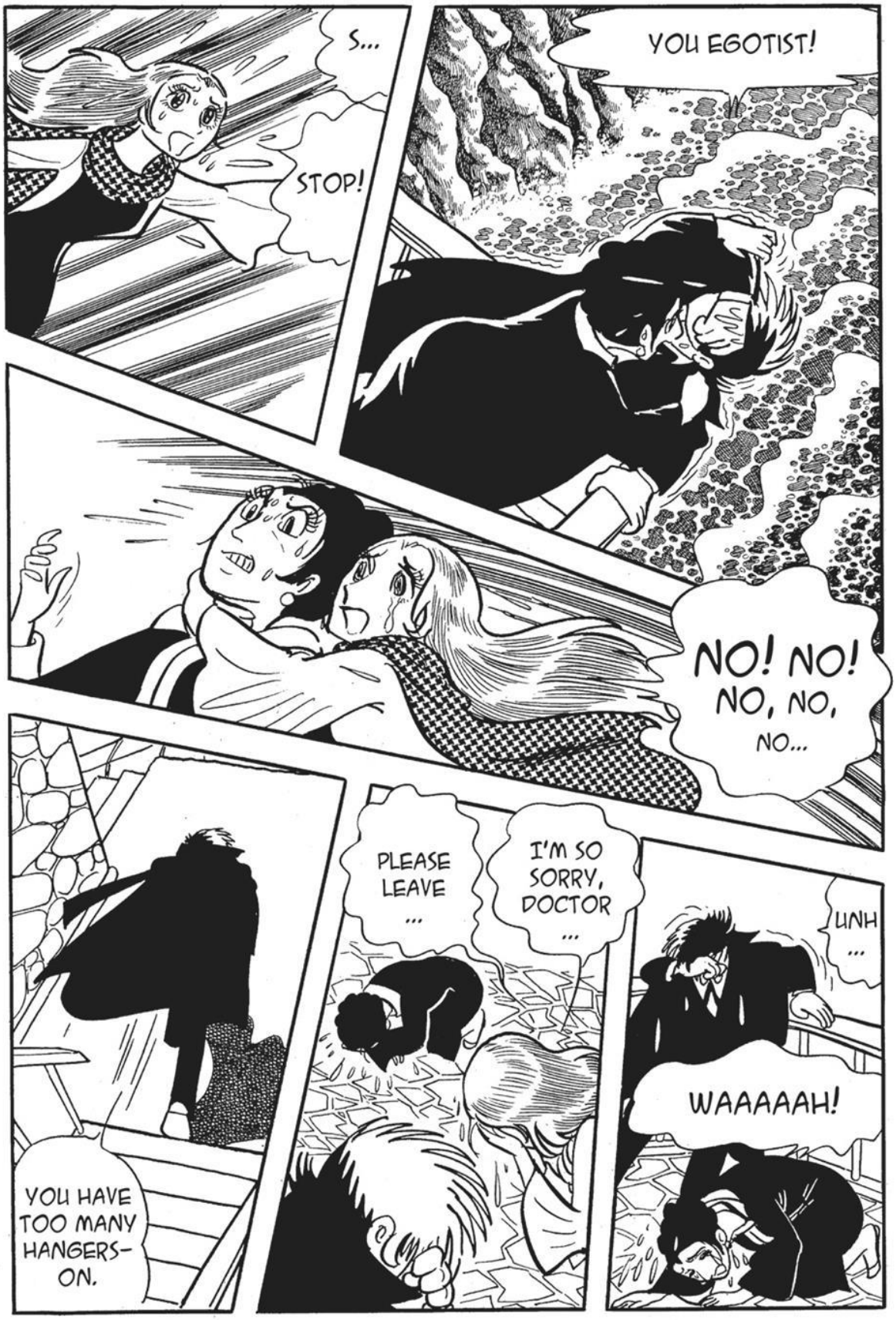

YOU CAN SEE MY HOUSE FROM HERE.
THAT'S WHY SHE HAD IT BUILT.

WHY DID YOU INVITE ME HERE?
SOMEONE WILL FIGURE OUT THE SECRET YOU TWO SHARE.


I HAVE TO AGREE WITH THAT.
KEEP HER AWAY FROM ME.

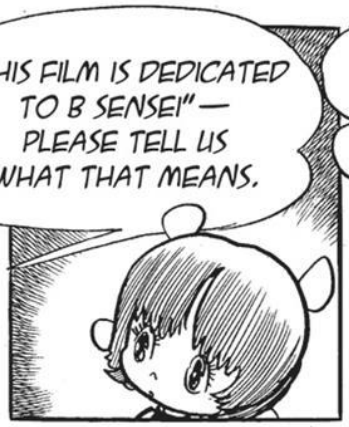

SHE'S OBSESSED WITH YOU.
YOU'RE HER EVERY-THING.
CAN'T YOU MOVE AWAY?

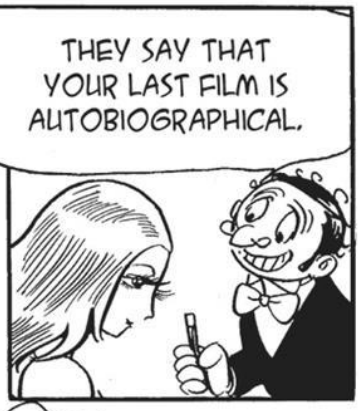
SHE'LL BE RUINED! SHE'S FINALLY BECOME A STAR!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? I'M FREE TO LIVE WHERE I WANT.
OUT OF THE QUESTION.
I'M SURE YOU'RE JUST WORRIED ABOUT HER,
BUT YOU'RE BEING SELFISH.
IF YOU DON'T DISAPPEAR,
YOU MUST DIE!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
STOP!!
NO, YOU'RE A PEST.
SPRAY
PLISS

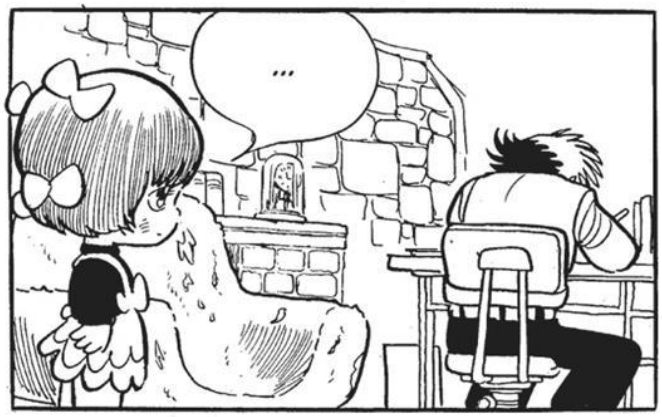

S...
STOP!
YOU EGOTIST!
NO! NO!
NO, NO,
NO...
YOU HAVE TOO MANY HANGERS-ON.
PLEASE LEAVE ...
I'M SO SORRY, DOCTOR ...
UNH ...
WAAAAAH!

IS IT TRUE YOU'RE RETIRING
AND MOVING TO BRAZIL?
HOW SAD.

WHO IS "B"?


"THIS FILM IS DEDICATED TO B SENSEI"— PLEASE TELL US WHAT THAT MEANS.

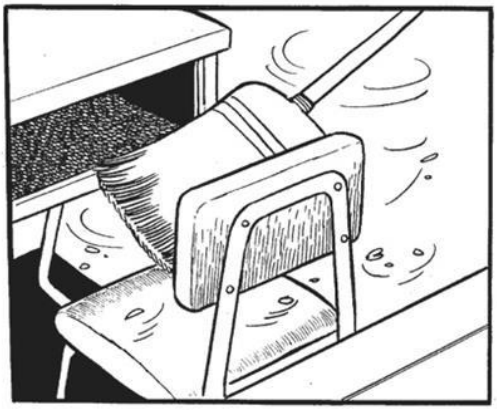

THEY SAY THAT YOUR LAST FILM IS AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL.


...

I... CAN'T TELL YOU...
A TEACHER?

LEAF BUDS

WHAT ?
AGAIN. UGH.

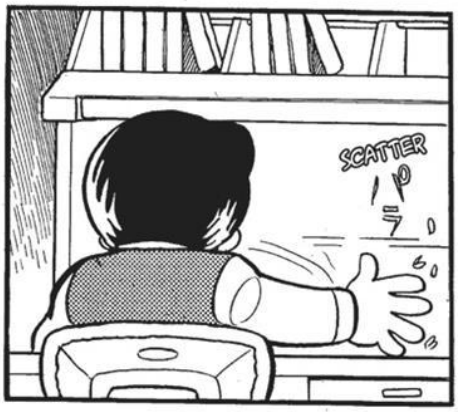


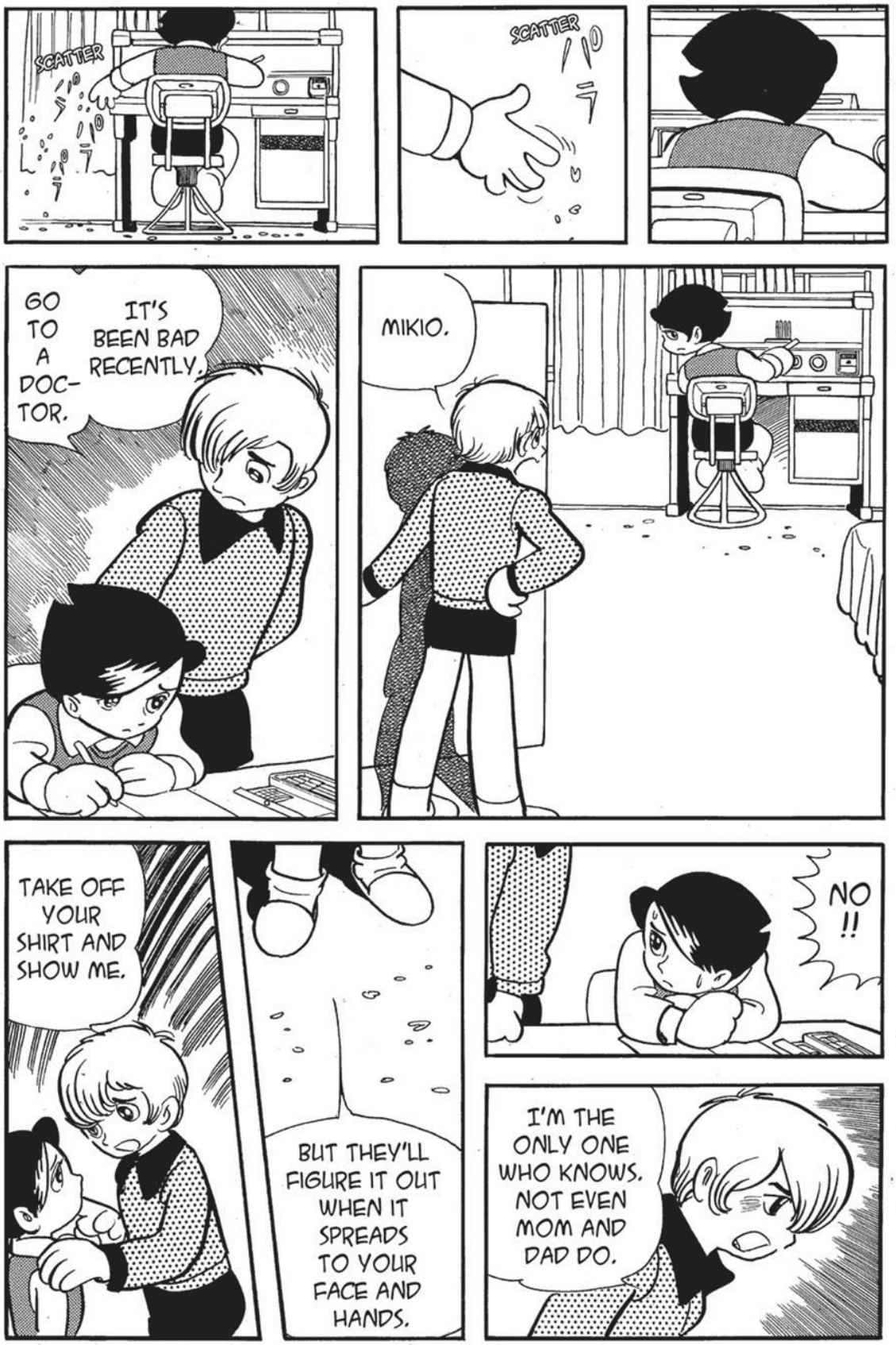
WEIRD !
EVERYDAY HE BRINGS THEM IN HIS POCKET AND SCATTERS THEM.

HEY, IT LOOKS LIKE LEAF BUDS.

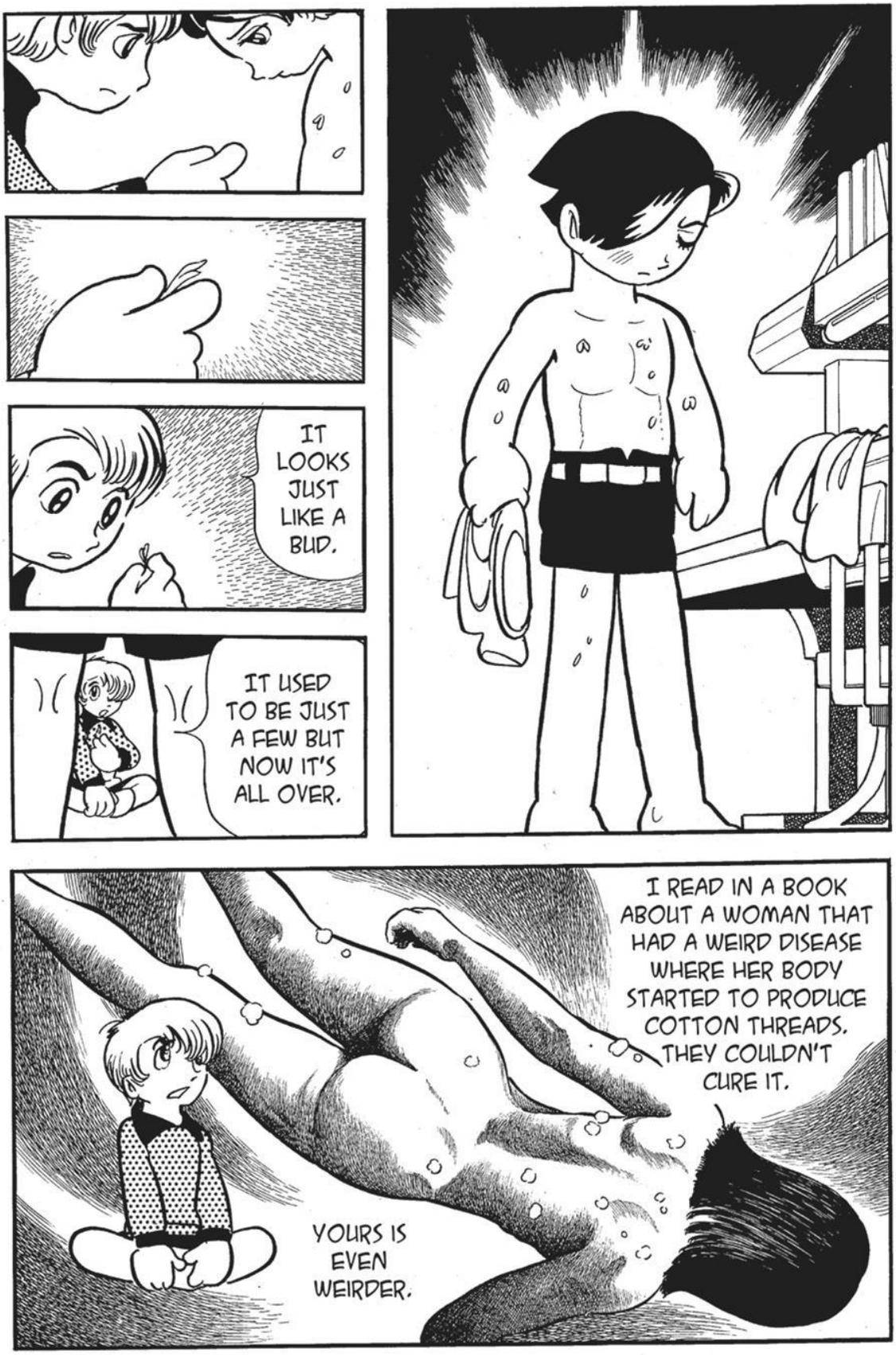
THERE'S A BUNCH OF LEAVES AROUND AOKI'S DESK.

FUMBLE


SCATTER

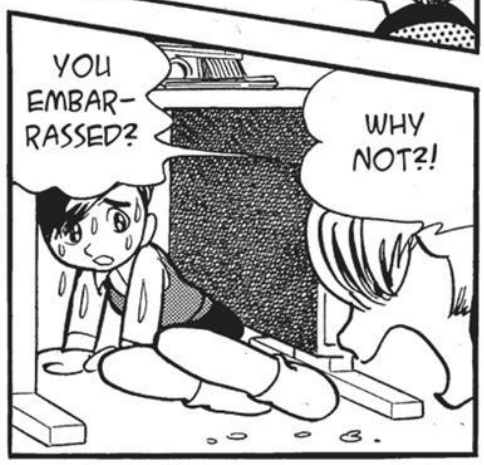


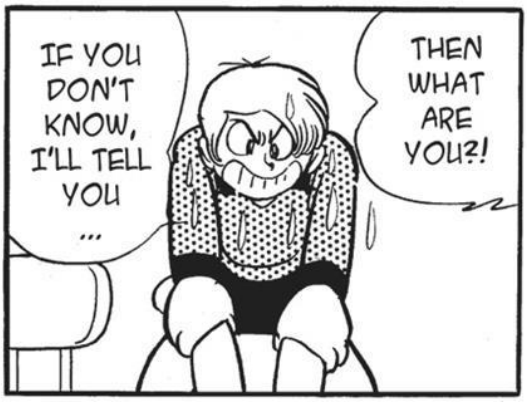
NOTE: WHILE THE BOY'S NAME, MIKIO AOKI, IS UTTERLY PLAUSIBLE, ITS CHARACTERS MEAN "TRUNK MAN" AND "GREEN TREE."


IT LOOKS JUST LIKE A BUD.
IT USED TO BE JUST A FEW BUT NOW IT'S ALL OVER.
I READ IN A BOOK ABOUT A WOMAN THAT HAD A WEIRD DISEASE WHERE HER BODY STARTED TO PRODUCE COTTON THREADS. THEY COULDN'T CURE IT.
YOURS IS EVEN WEIRDER.

NO! I'M NOT SICK!
I'M NOT!
LET'S GO TO THE DOCTOR. HE'LL TREAT YOU.

NO !!
GO TO A DOC-TOR.


YOU EMBAR-RASSED?
WHY NOT?!

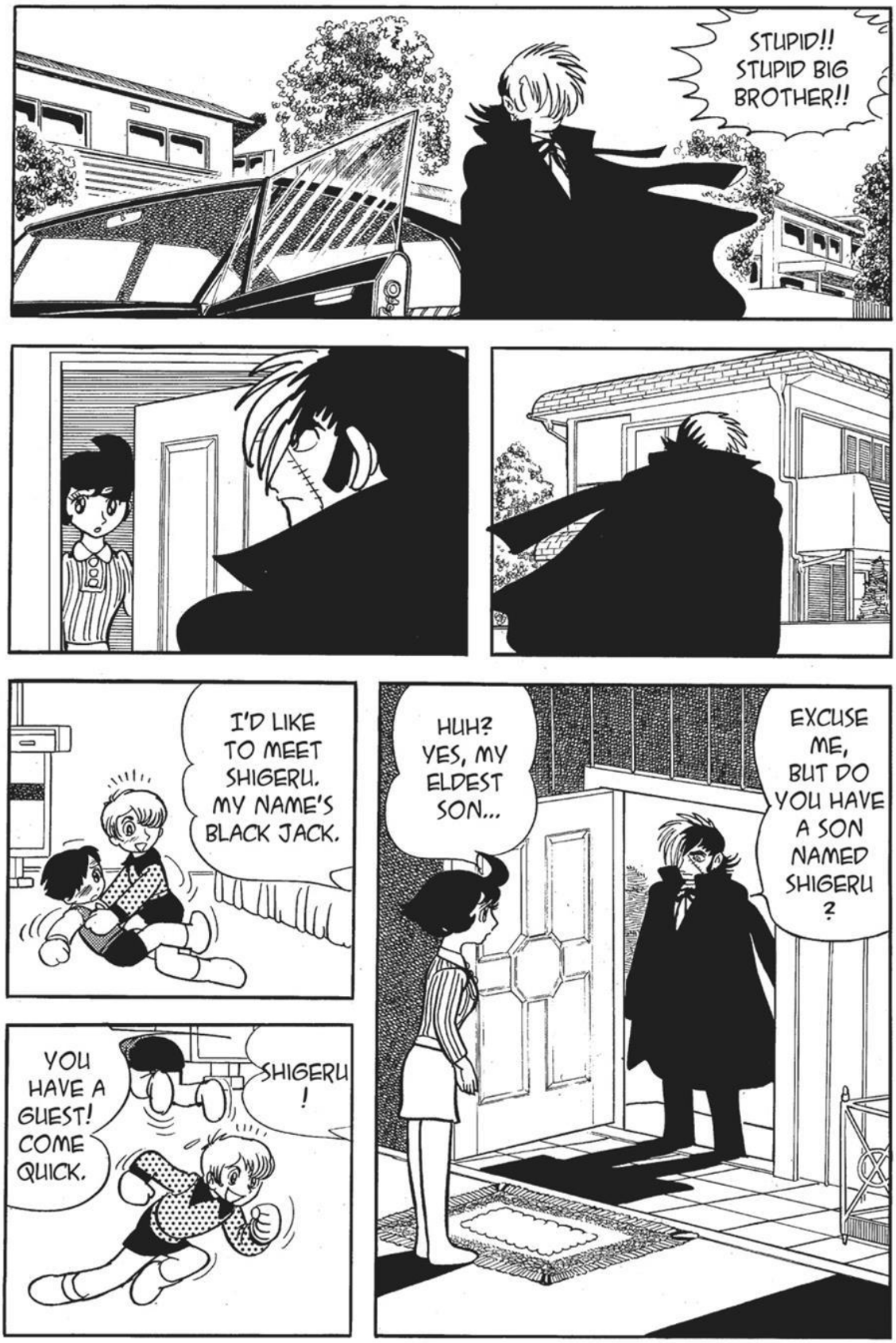

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, I'LL TELL YOU ...
THEN WHAT ARE YOU?!

...

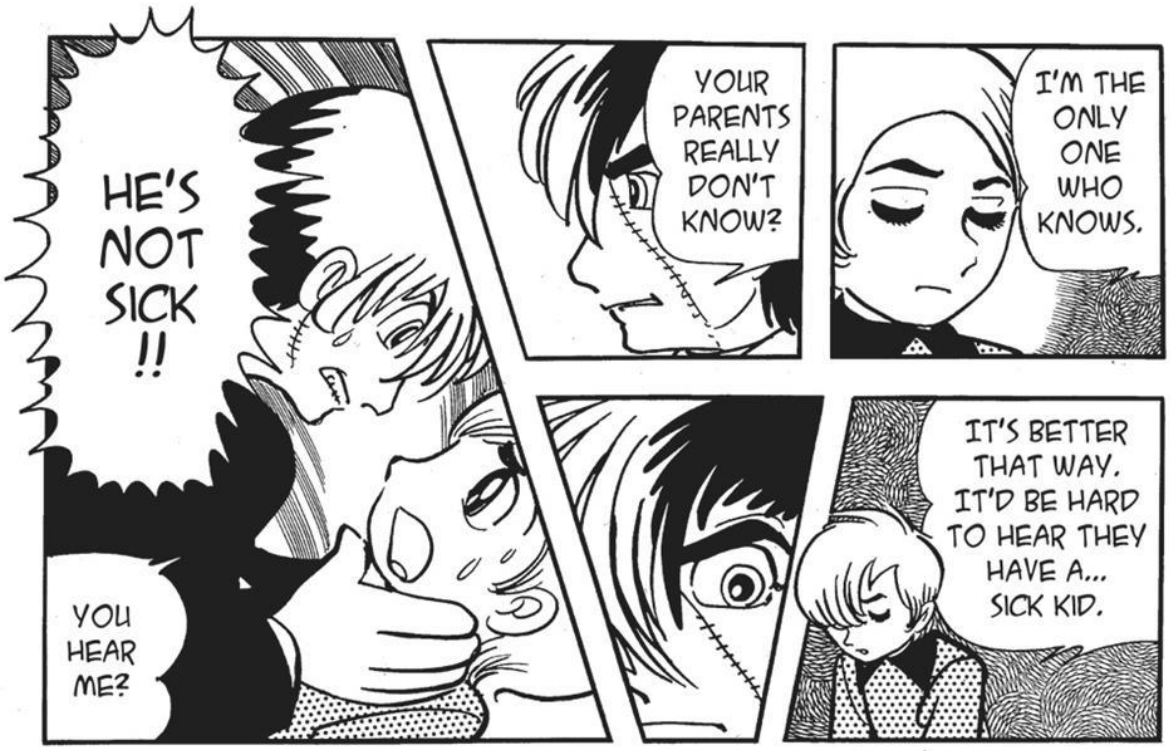
NOT SICK?

NO WAY!

SHUT UP, IDIOT!
LEAF BOY! LEAF BOY!!

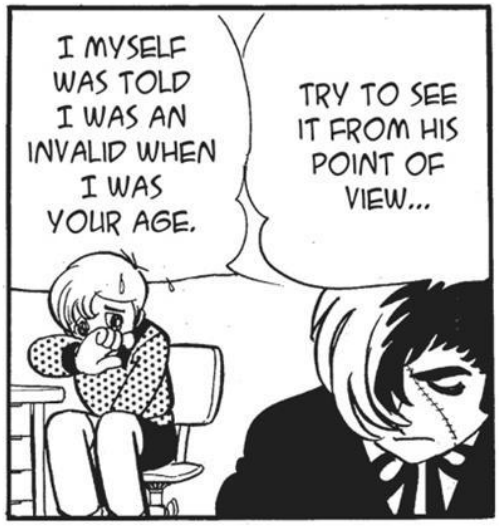

STUPID!! STUPID BIG BROTHER!!
I'D LIKE TO MEET SHIGERU. MY NAME'S BLACK JACK.
YOU HAVE A GUEST! COME QUICK.
SHIGERU !
HUH? YES, MY ELDEST SON...
EXCUSE ME, BUT DO YOU HAVE A SON NAMED SHIGERU ?

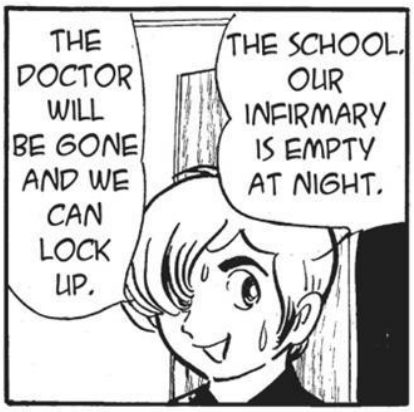
DOC, COME TO MY ROOM!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
THANK YOU FOR COM-ING!
THIS GUY'S THE BEST DOCTOR IN THE WORLD.
SO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
IT STARTED A YEAR AGO ...
I CHECKED OUT THE BUD YOU SENT, TOO.
I READ YOUR LETTER 3 MONTHS AGO.
TWO MONTHS LATER I NOTICED ONE ON HIS LEFT CHEST. THEN THEY KEPT COMING, AND BY THREE MONTHS AGO THEY JUST CAME BACK AS SOON AS I TOOK THEM OFF. SO I WROTE TO YOU SECRETLY.
I FIRST NOTICED A GREEN THING ON MIKIO'S SHOULDER. WHEN I PULLED IT OFF IT APPEARED TO BE SOME SORT OF PLANT.


HE'S NOT SICK !!
YOU HEAR ME?
YOUR PARENTS REALLY DON'T KNOW?
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS.
IT'S BETTER THAT WAY. IT'D BE HARD TO HEAR THEY HAVE A... SICK KID.

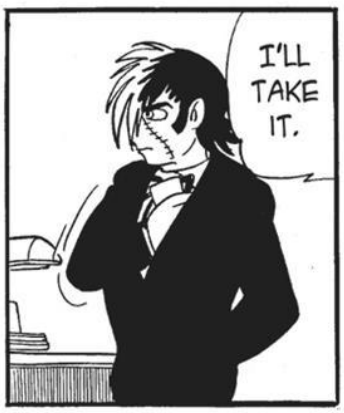
I'VE GOT 32,000 YEN SAVED. WILL ALL OF IT BE ENOUGH ?

THAT'S WHY I'M EVEN BOTHERING TO LISTEN TO SOMEONE WITH NO MONEY.
TO A KID.


I MYSELF WAS TOLD I WAS AN INVALID WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE.
TRY TO SEE IT FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW...


THE DOCTOR WILL BE GONE AND WE CAN LOCK UP.
THE SCHOOL. OUR INFIRMARY IS EMPTY AT NIGHT.

WHERE SHALL I TREAT HIM?


I'LL TAKE IT.

WHAT'S WRONG ?

...
IT'S A REAL PAIN DEALING WITH THOSE LEAVES.
HEY, MIKIO! STOP MAKING SUCH A MESS!
STOP SCATTERING THEM, OK?

BROTHER ... I CAN'T TAKE IT.

AND IT'S TELLING ME NOT TO SHOW HIM! IT WON'T LET ME!
THERE'S THIS OTHER THING IN MY HEART...

DON'T WORRY, BLACK JACK WILL CURE YOU TODAY.

MY FRIENDS HATE ME AND MY BODY FEELS WEIRD.

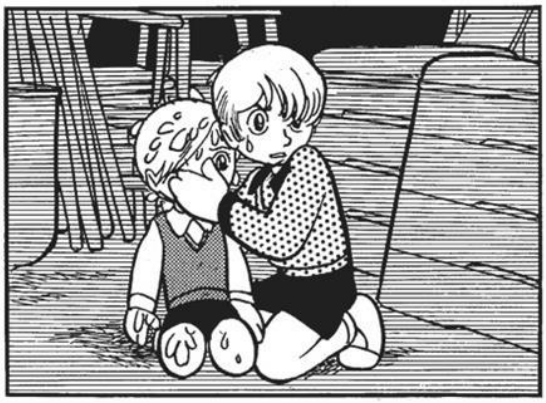
YOU HAVE TO, TO GET BETTER.
I WON'T SHOW HIM!
NO!

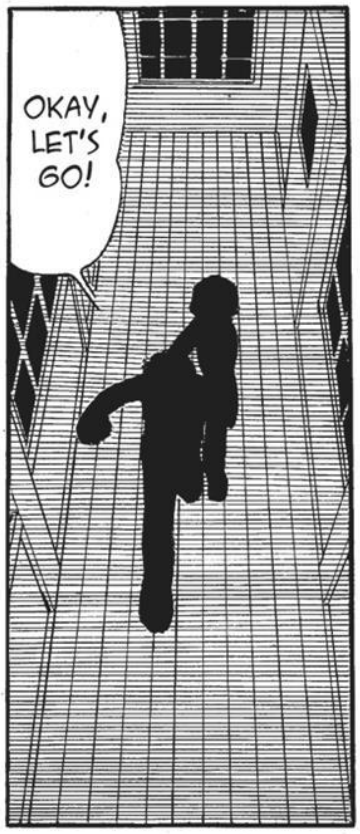
STOP MESSING AROUND! YOU'RE SEEING THE DOCTOR TODAY!
I DUNNO, IT'S POSSES-SING ME.
WHAT'S SAYING THAT ?!
ARE YOU ILL? DO YOU NEED MEDICINE?
I'M FINE.
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
HE SAID HE DIDN'T FEEL WELL SO HE'S RESTING.
WHERE'S AOKI?
DUDE, WHAT'S UP?
LET HIM BE.
HEY, AOKI! IT'S YOUR TURN TO HELP SERVE!
LUNCH TIME!

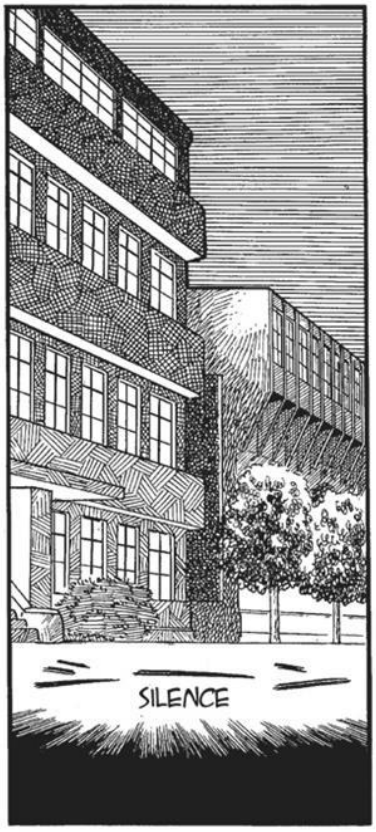
MONSTER!!
AARGH!
EWW, HIS FACE!
TEACHER! AOKI IS ...
...
WHERE ARE YOU?
AOKI !

AOKI!

ARE YOU READY TO HAVE BLACK JACK TREAT YOU?
YOU CAN'T GO HOME LIKE THIS.

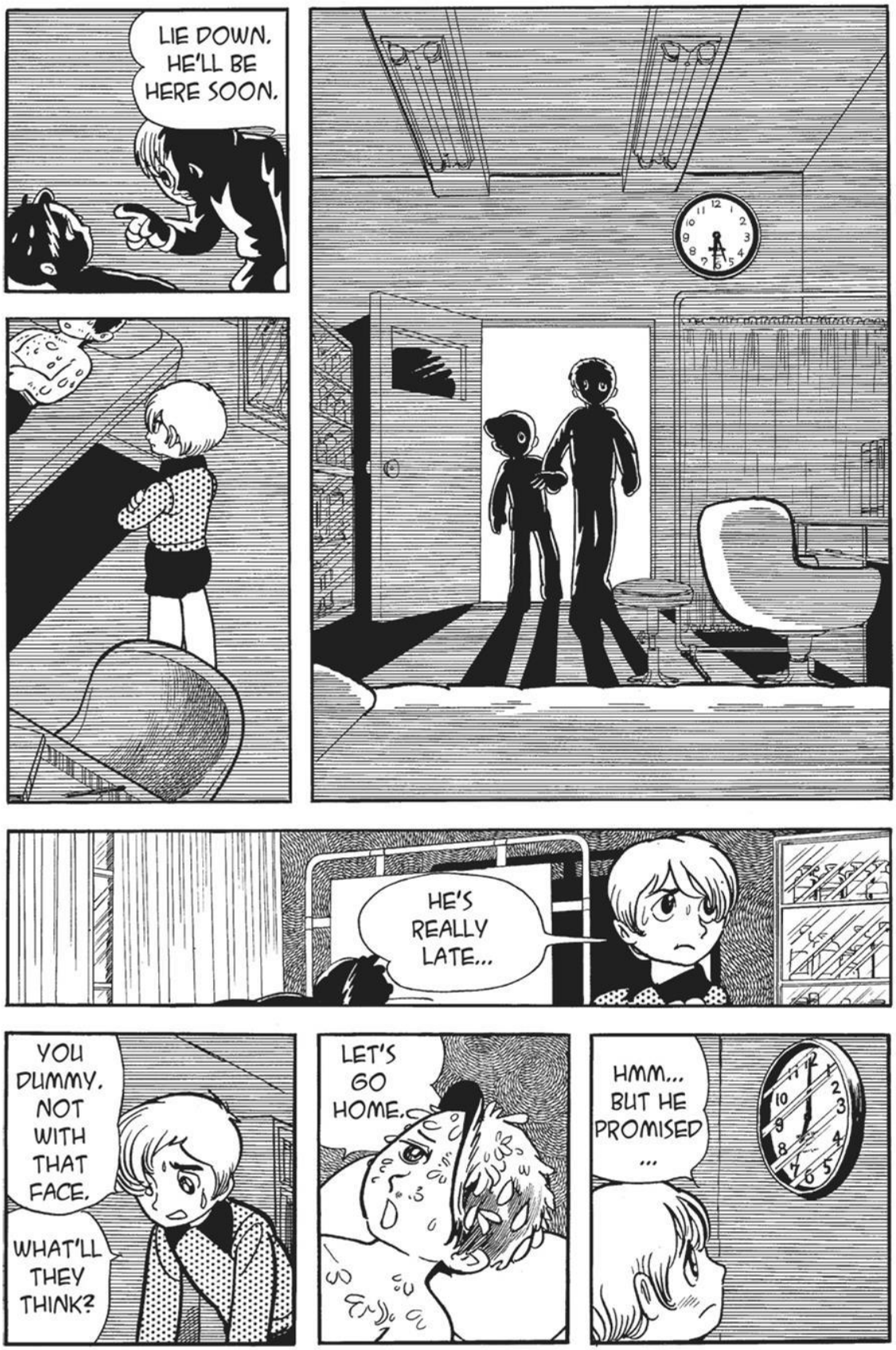



OKAY, LET'S GO!

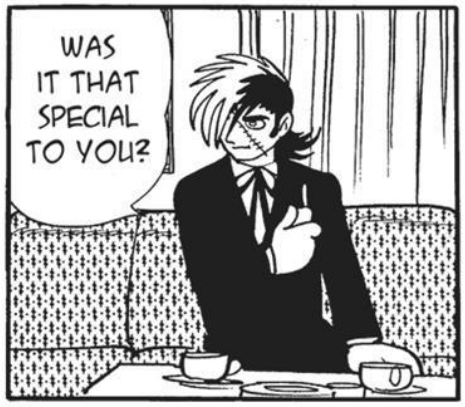

SILENCE

WE'LL GO TO THE INFIRMARY WHEN THEY LEAVE.

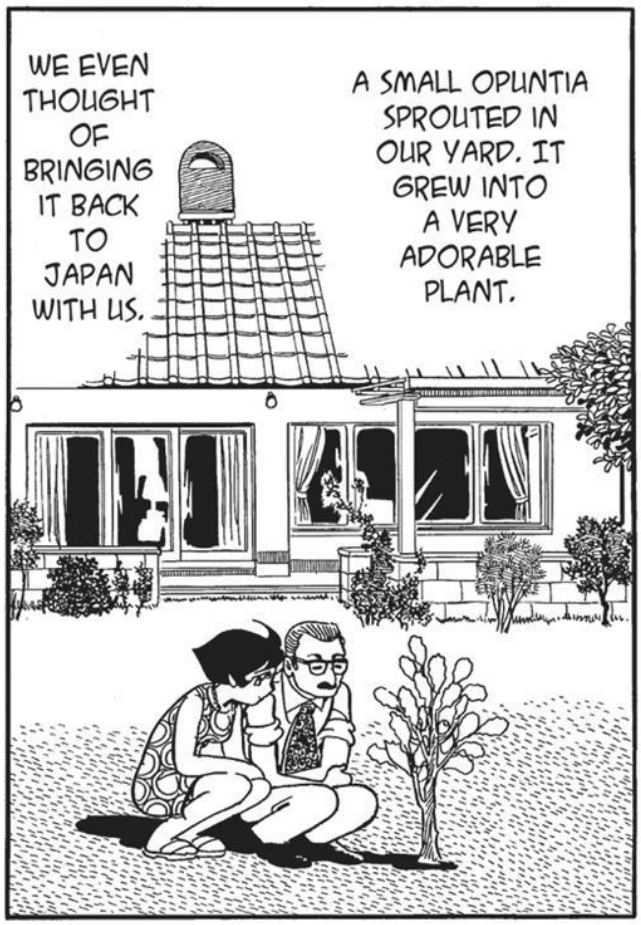
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

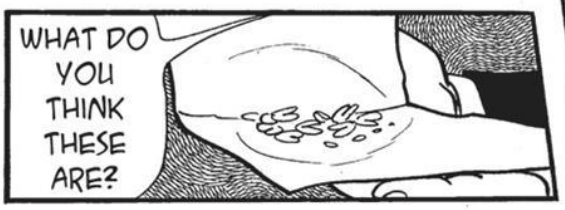

LIE DOWN. HE'LL BE HERE SOON.
HE'S REALLY LATE...
YOU DUMMY. NOT WITH THAT FACE.
WHAT'LL THEY THINK?
LET'S GO HOME.
HMM... BUT HE PROMISED ...

WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHY NOW?
DAMN! THERE'S NO END IN SIGHT!
I KEEP TAKING THE LEAVES OFF BUT THEY JUST KEEP GROWING BACK FASTER!
WE RAISED SOME WHEN WE LIVED IN BRAZIL.
CACTUS? WHY, YES.
MY HUS-BAND IS A TRADER ...
BRAZIL?
MA'AM, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A TYPE OF CACTUS CALLED OPUNTIA?


WAS IT THAT SPECIAL TO YOU?

IT SOUNDS WEIRD, BUT WE CARED FOR IT LIKE IT WAS FAMILY. IT WAS HARD TO LEAVE.

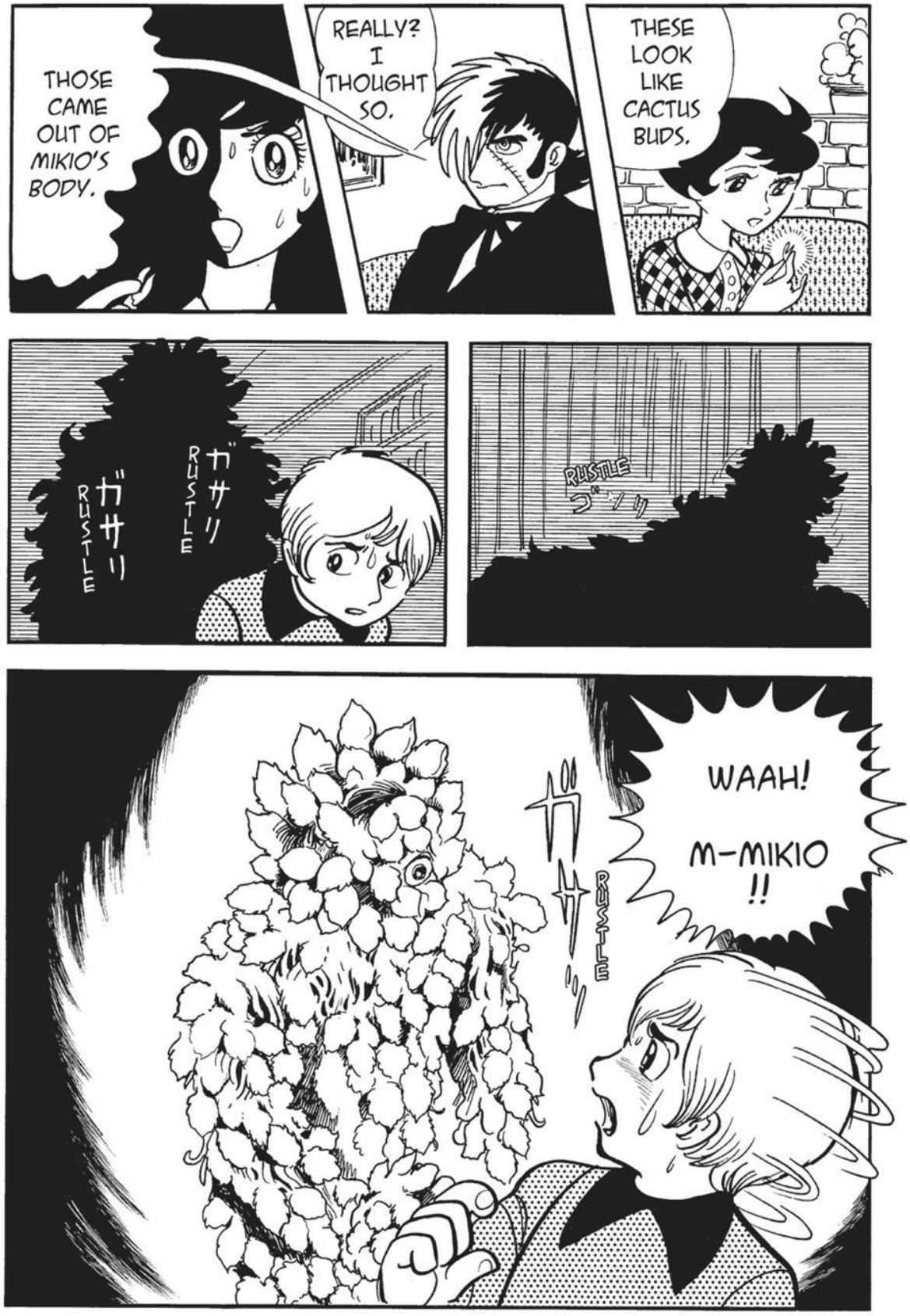

WE EVEN THOUGHT OF BRINGING IT BACK TO JAPAN WITH US.
A SMALL OPUNTIA SPROUTED IN OUR YARD. IT GREW INTO A VERY ADORABLE PLANT.

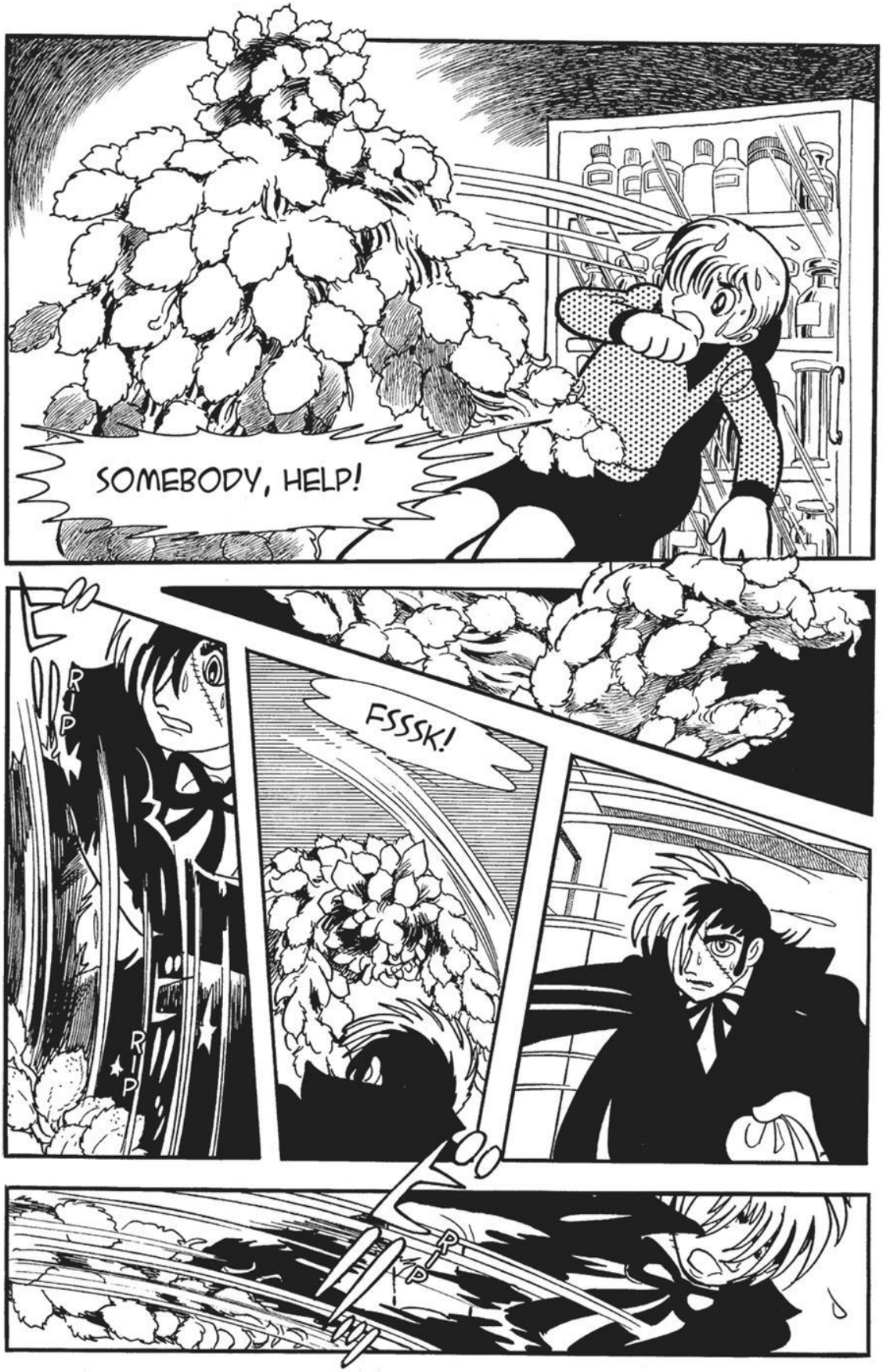

WHAT DO YOU THINK THESE ARE?

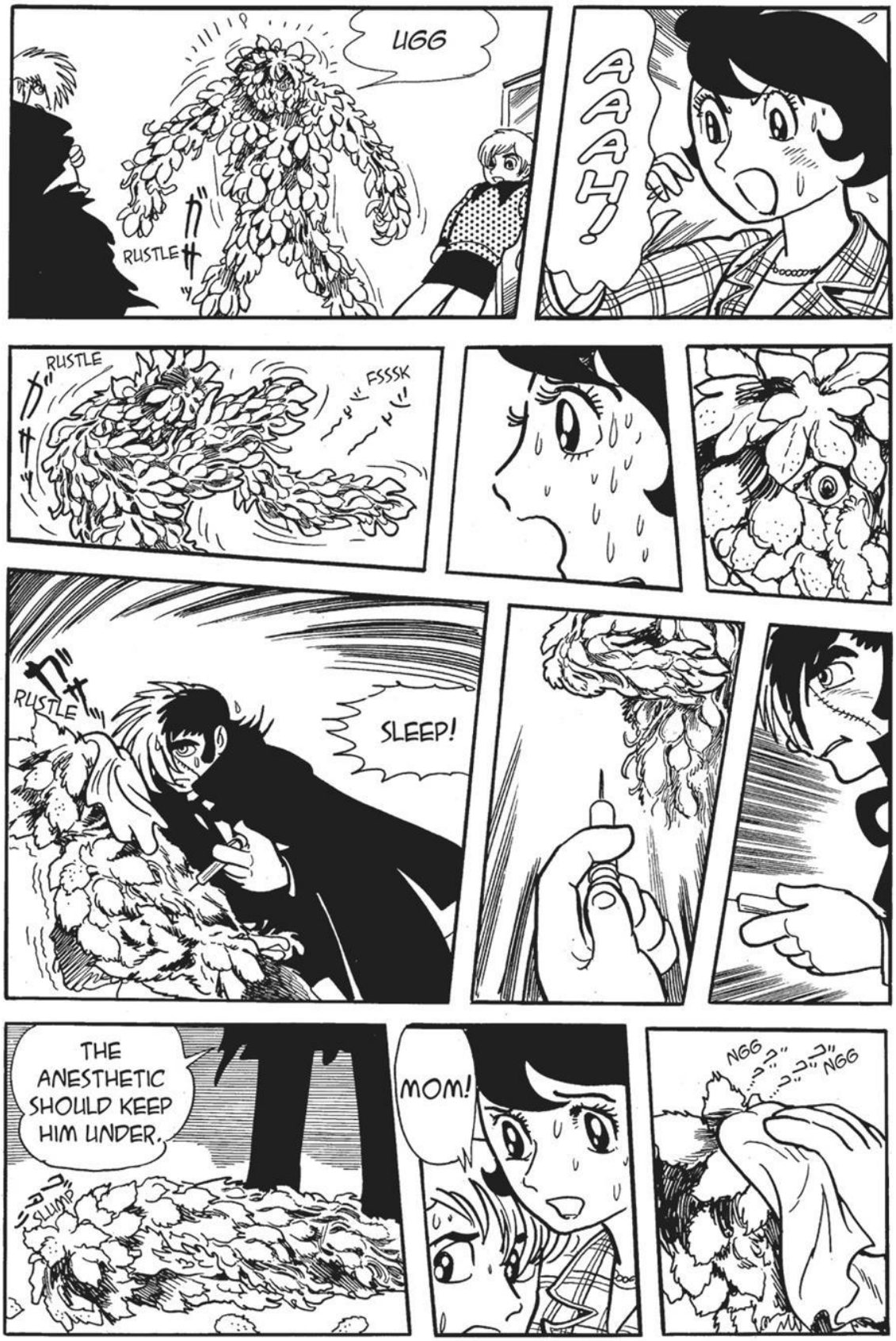
?

PROBABLY NOT. OUR ELDEST, SHIGERU, WAS STILL YOUNG. MIKIO WAS BORN RIGHT BEFORE WE MOVED BACK.

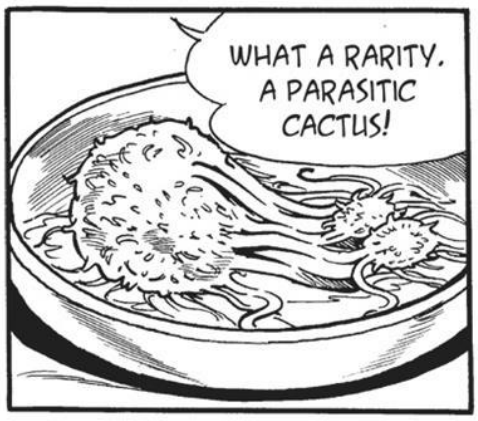
HM. AND DO YOUR SONS KNOW OF THE CACTUS?


THOSE CAME OUT OF MIKIO'S BODY.
REALLY? I THOUGHT SO.
THESE LOOK LIKE CACTUS BUDS.
ガサリ RUSTLE
ガサリ RUSTLE
RUSTLE ゴソリ
RUSTLE
WAAH! M-MIKIO !!


SOMEBODY, HELP!
FSSSK!
RIP
RIP
RIP


UGG
RUSTLE
AAAH!
RUSTLE
FSSSK
RUSTLE
SLEEP!
THE ANESTHETIC SHOULD KEEP HIM UNDER.
SLUMP
MOM!
NGG
NGG

SOME-THING NEXT TO HIS HEART.
GET SOME LAMPS IN HERE!
THIS IS ROUGH, BUT WE HAVE NO TIME.
IT'S GOTTEN INSIDE HIS DIAPHRAGM!
THIS IS IT ...


WHAT A RARITY. A PARASITIC CACTUS!

LOOK AT THIS, MA'AM.

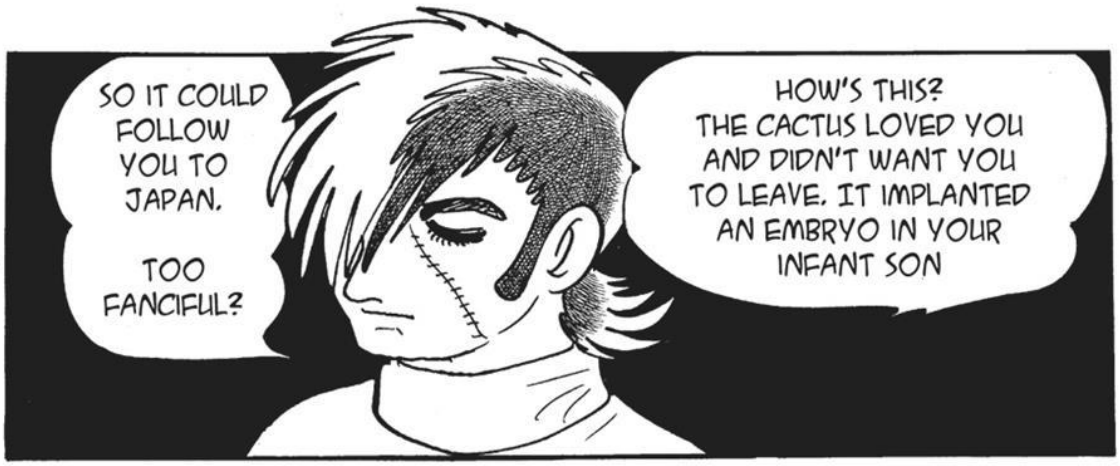
DONE.

HE WON'T SPROUT ANY-MORE.
MIKIO WILL BE FINE.

DOCTOR ... IT'S AN OPUNTIA!

SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT CACTI HAVE A SPECIAL SENSE...

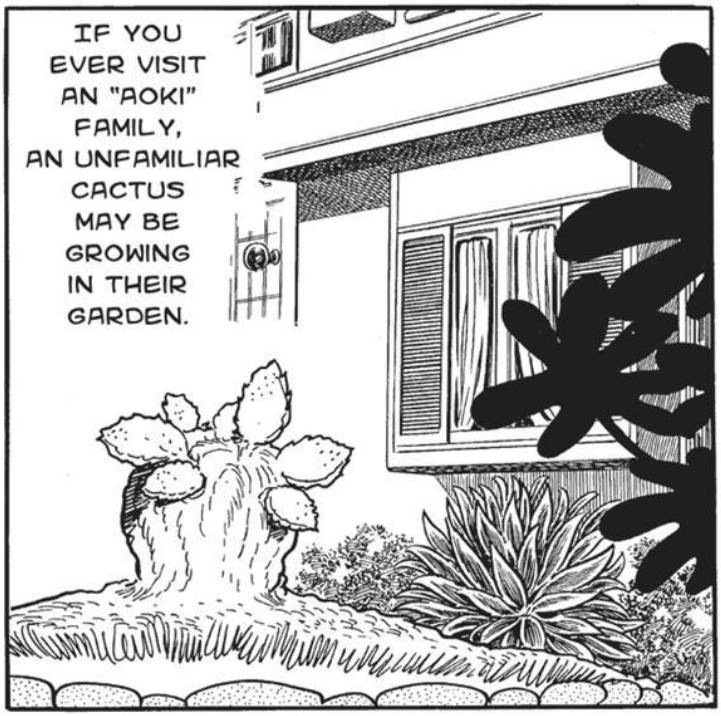
IF IT HAD BEEN LEFT ANY LONGER, IT COULD'VE TAKEN OVER HIS BODY.
IT SOUNDS STRANGE, BUT A CACTUS EMBRYO GREW INSIDE OF MIKIO AND STARTED TO BUD.

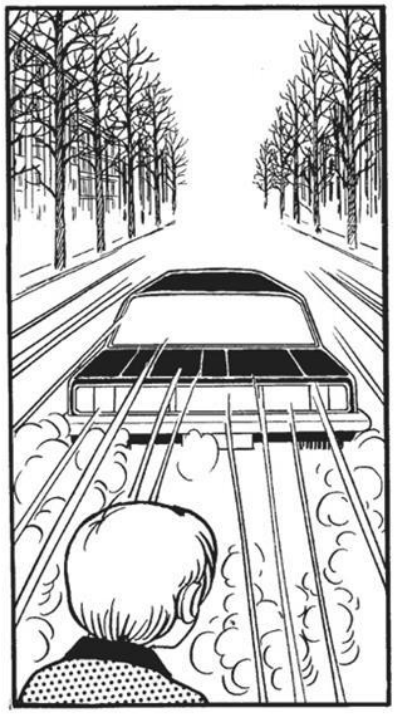

SO IT COULD FOLLOW YOU TO JAPAN.
TOO FANCIFUL?
HOW'S THIS? THE CACTUS LOVED YOU AND DIDN'T WANT YOU TO LEAVE. IT IMPLANTED AN EMBRYO IN YOUR INFANT SON

HERE'S YOUR MONEY BACK. BUY YOUR BROTHER A GIFT.

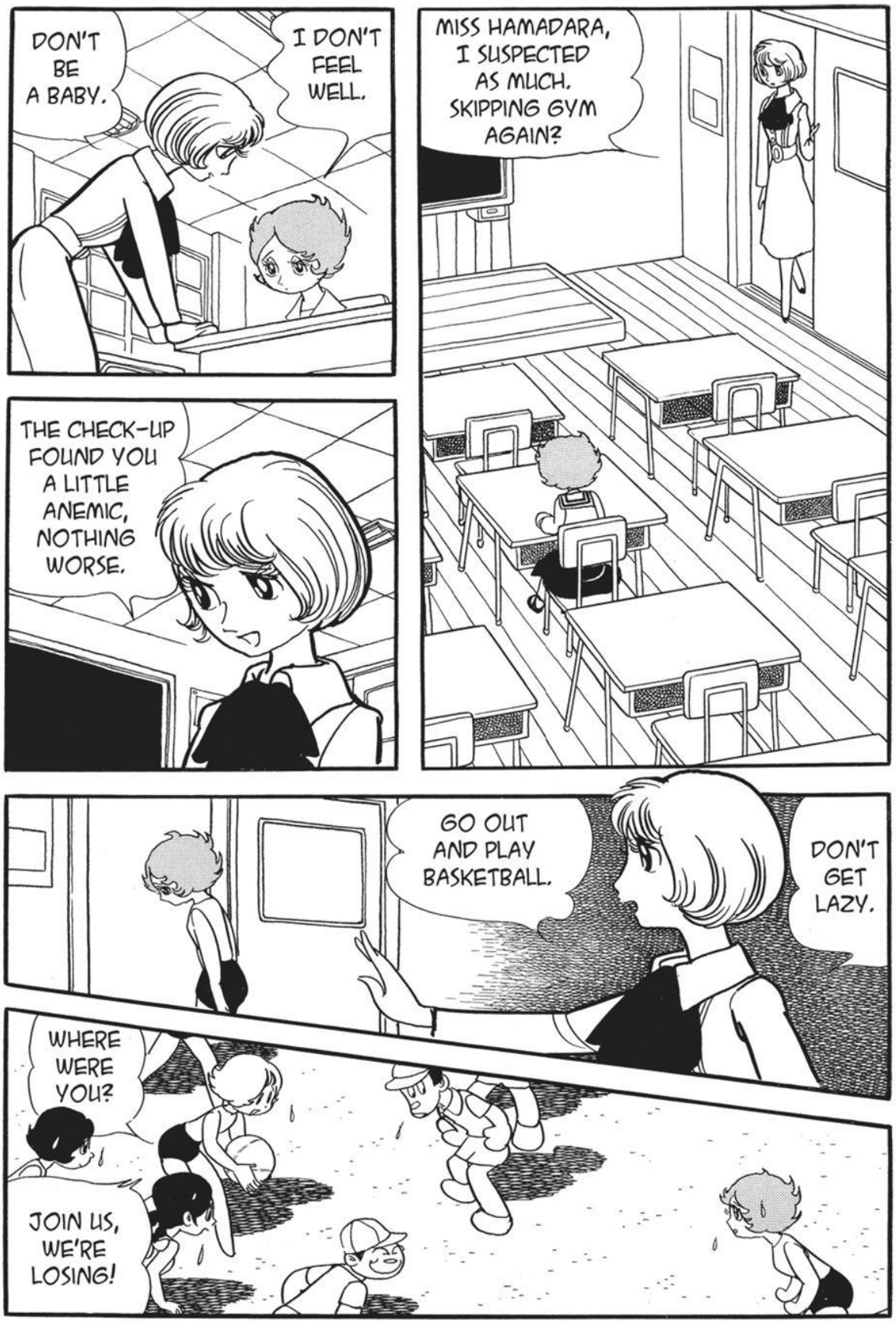
NOW WHAT?
JUST HAVE A DOCTOR CHECK UP ON HIM.

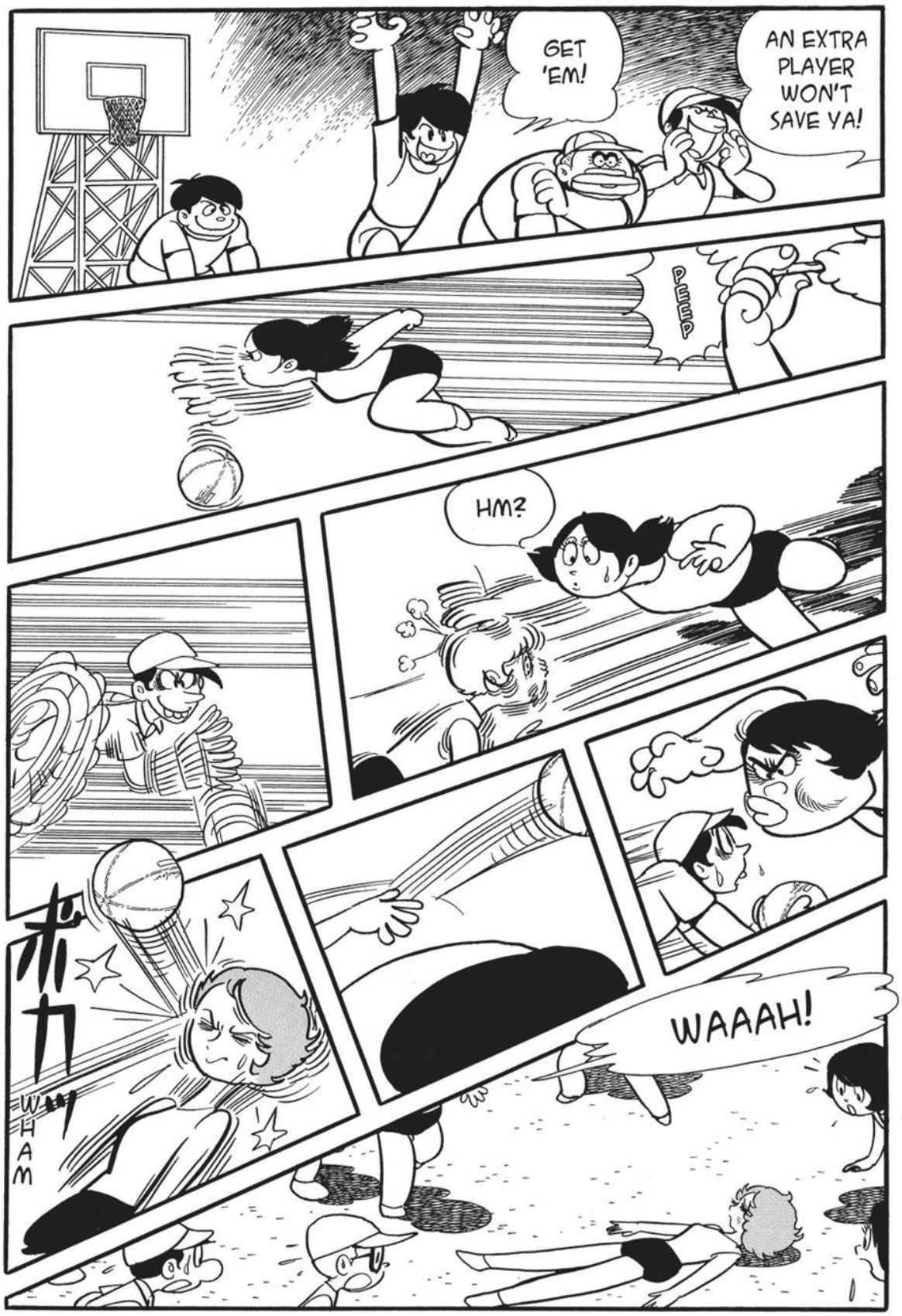
CAN I HAVE THIS?
BE MY GUEST.

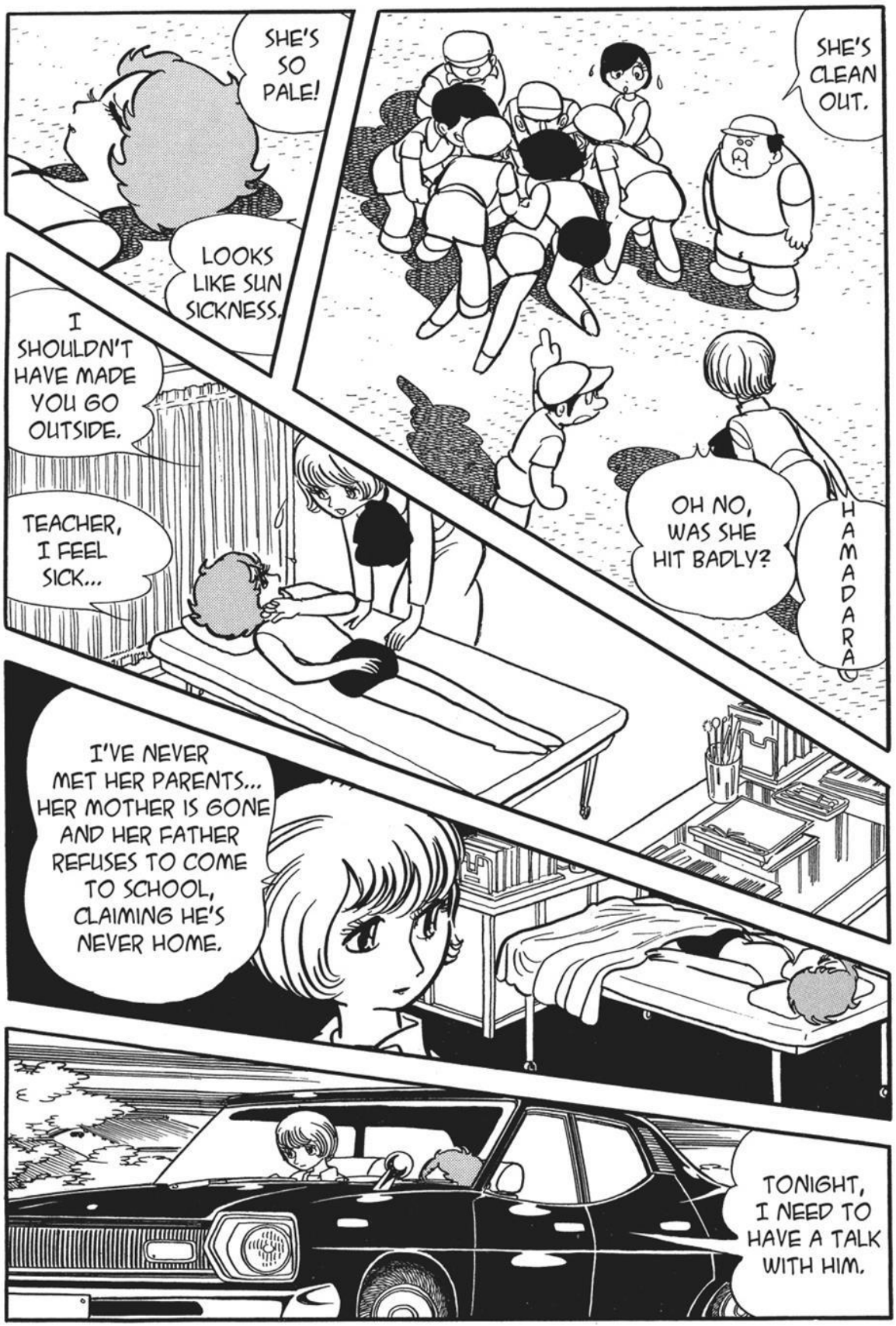

IF YOU EVER VISIT AN "AOKI" FAMILY, AN UNFAMILIAR CACTUS MAY BE GROWING IN THEIR GARDEN.

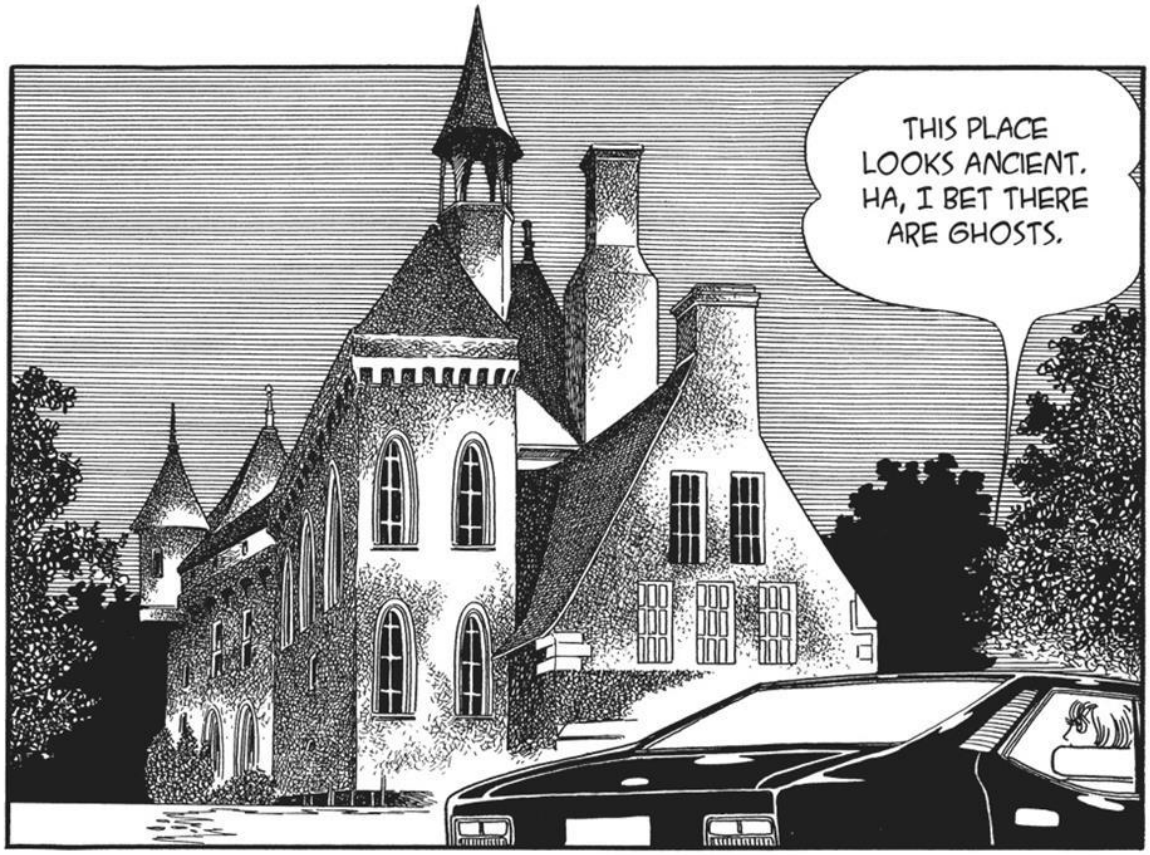


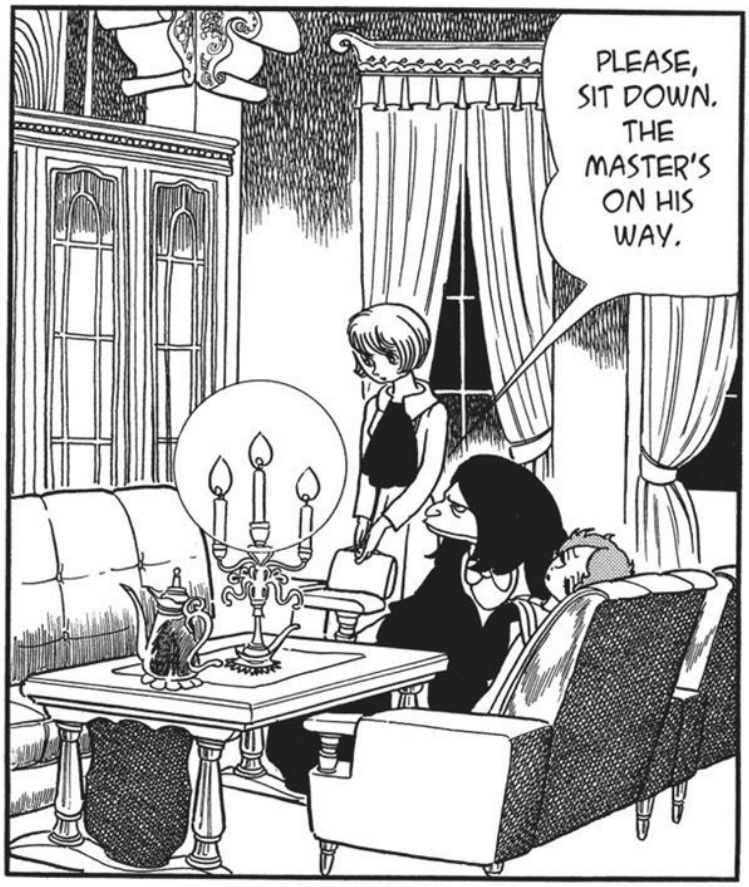
DEDICATED TO DRACULA

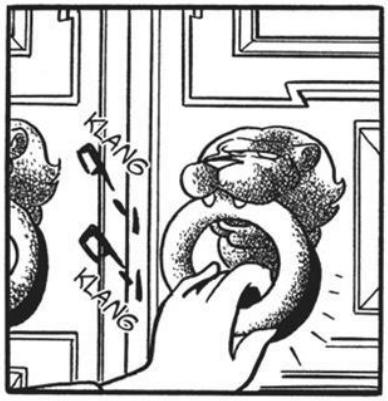

DON'T BE A BABY.
I DON'T FEEL WELL.
MISS HAMADARA, I SUSPECTED AS MUCH. SKIPPING GYM AGAIN?
THE CHECK-UP FOUND YOU A LITTLE ANEMIC, NOTHING WORSE.
GO OUT AND PLAY BASKETBALL.
DON'T GET LAZY.
WHERE WERE YOU?
JOIN US, WE'RE LOSING!


GET 'EM!
AN EXTRA PLAYER WON'T SAVE YA!
PEEP
HM?
ポカ
WHAM
WAAAH!

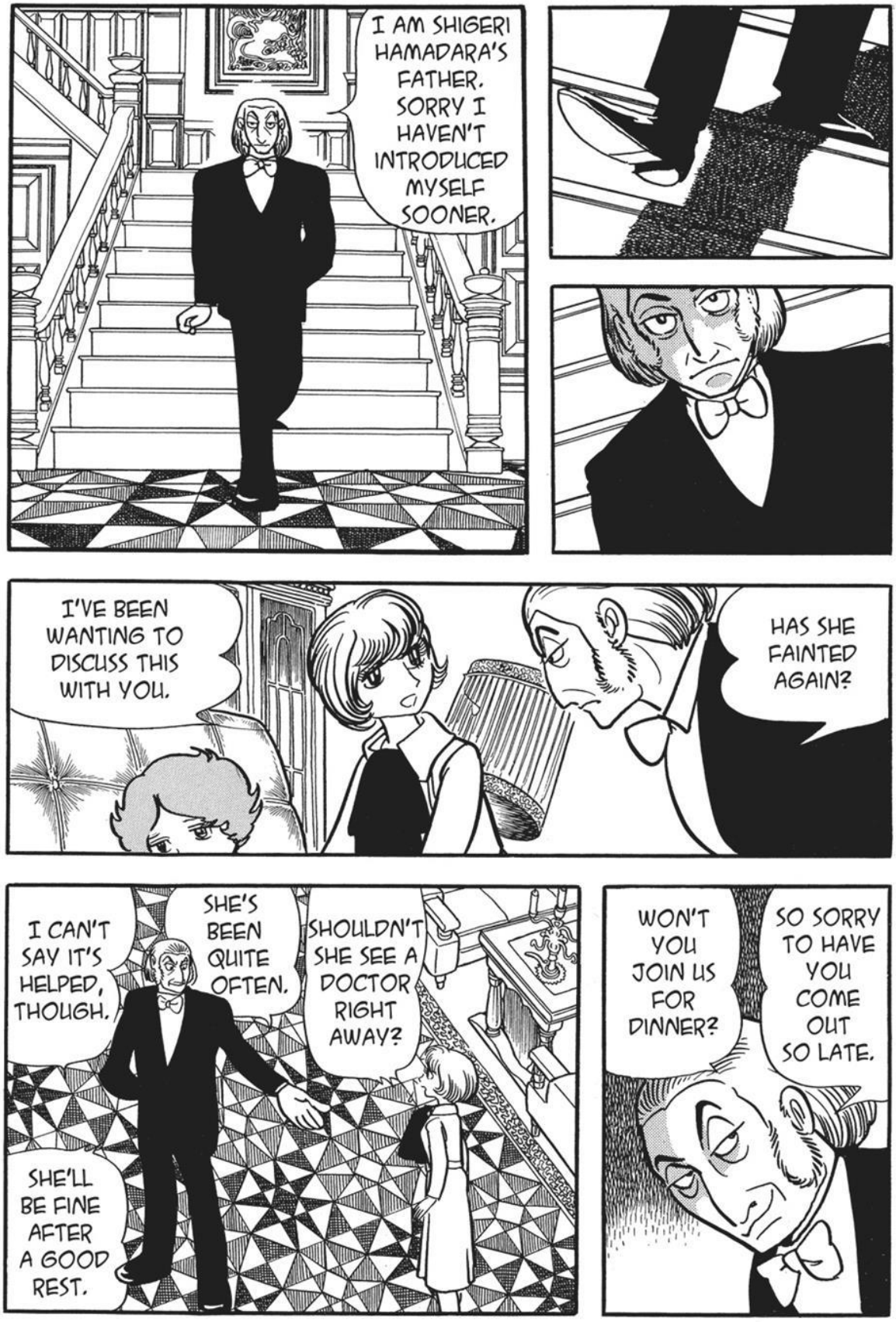

SHE'S SO PALE!
LOOKS LIKE SUN SICKNESS.
SHE'S CLEAN OUT.
OH NO, WAS SHE HIT BADLY?
HAMADARA
I SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE YOU GO OUTSIDE.
TEACHER, I FEEL SICK...
I'VE NEVER MET HER PARENTS... HER MOTHER IS GONE AND HER FATHER REFUSES TO COME TO SCHOOL, CLAIMING HE'S NEVER HOME.
TONIGHT, I NEED TO HAVE A TALK WITH HIM.


THIS PLACE LOOKS ANCIENT. HA, I BET THERE ARE GHOSTS.


PLEASE, SIT DOWN. THE MASTER'S ON HIS WAY.


KLANG
KLANG

PLEASE WAIT HERE.
I'M HER HOME-ROOM TEACHER.

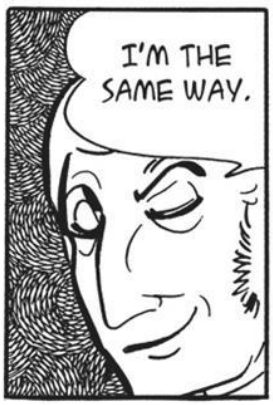

I AM SHIGERI HAMADARA'S FATHER. SORRY I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF SOONER.
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOU.
HAS SHE FAINTED AGAIN?
I CAN'T SAY IT'S HELPED, THOUGH.
SHE'S BEEN QUITE OFTEN.
SHOULDN'T SHE SEE A DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY?
SHE'LL BE FINE AFTER A GOOD REST.
WON'T YOU JOIN US FOR DINNER?
SO SORRY TO HAVE YOU COME OUT SO LATE.

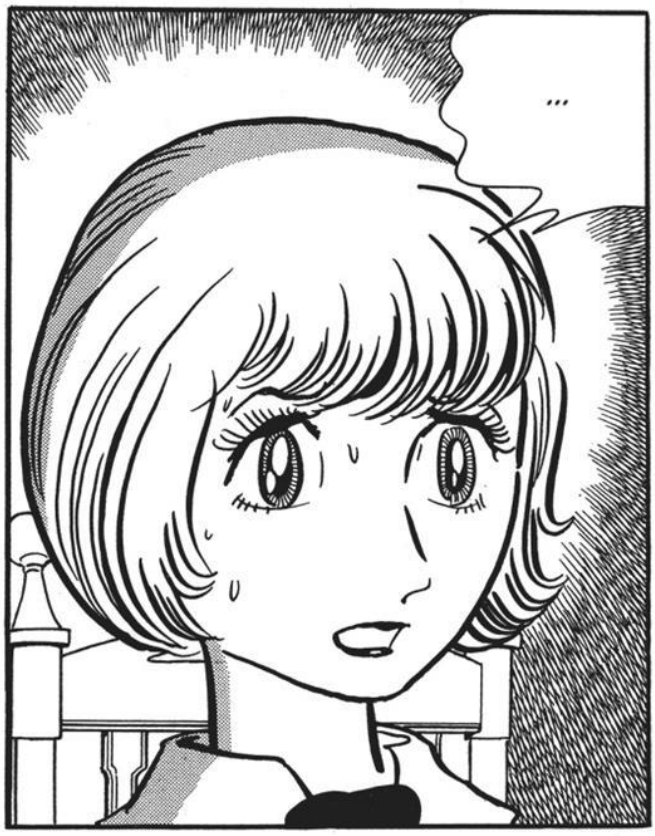
IS FROM THE CARPATHIAN REGION. DON'T BE SHY, DRINK UP.
THIS WINE
AH!
OH, DEAR ME.
MAY I?
QUICK, THE FIRST-AID KIT.

I'M WELL AWARE. IT'S CONGENITAL.
YOUR DAUGHTER HATES TO GO OUTSIDE. WHEN I MAKE HER GO TO GYM CLASS, SHE FAINTS AS SOON AS SHE'S IN SUNLIGHT.

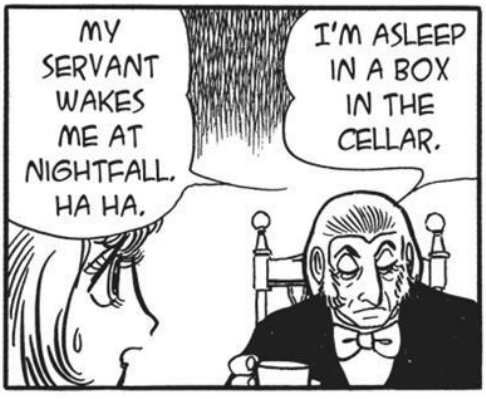
I, TOO, AVOID THE OUTDOORS UNTIL DARK.
IT MIGHT BE OUR WEAK CONSTITUTION, BUT SUNLIGHT IS TOO BRIGHT. UV RAYS BURN MY SKIN.

HUH ?

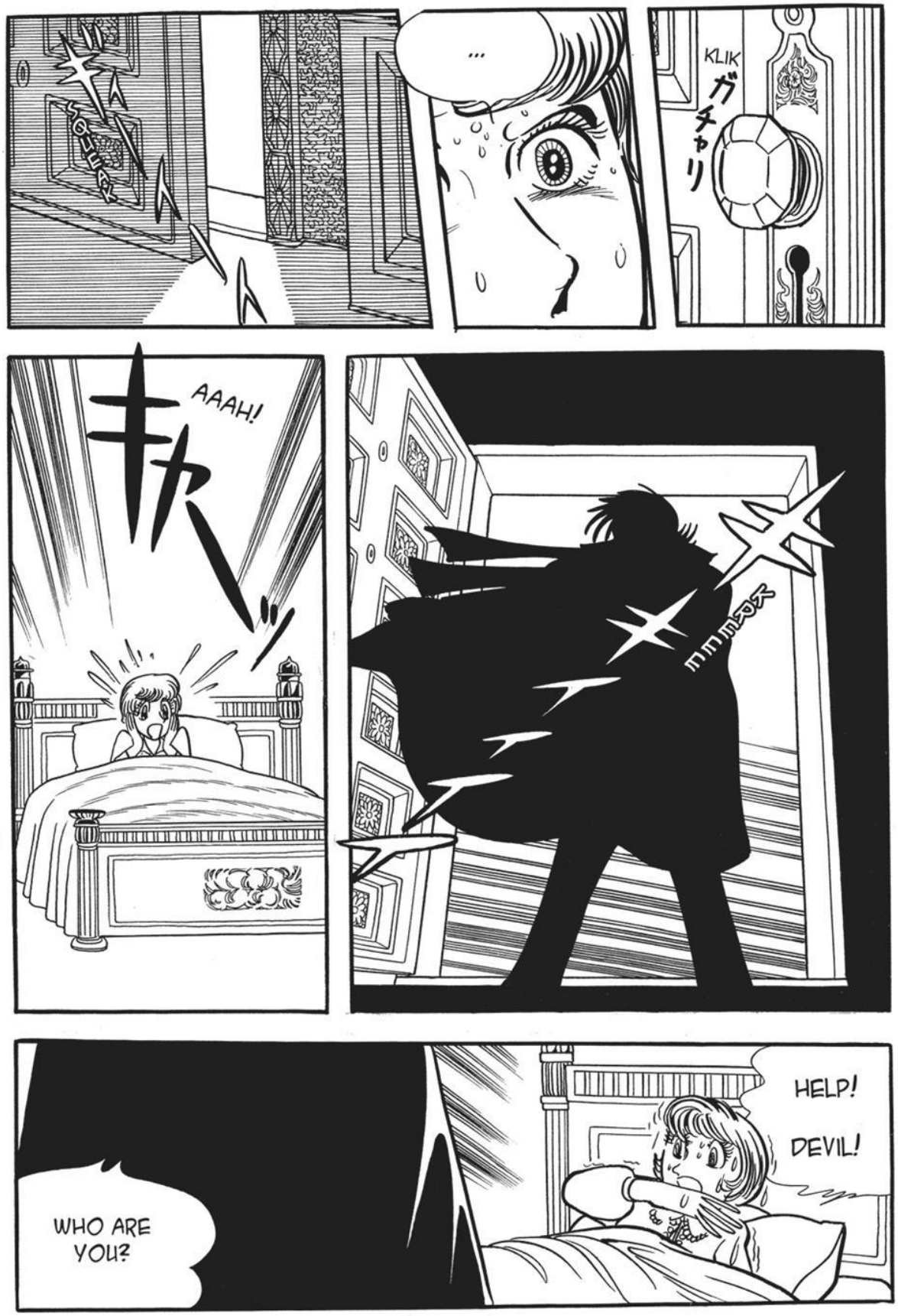

I'M THE SAME WAY.


...

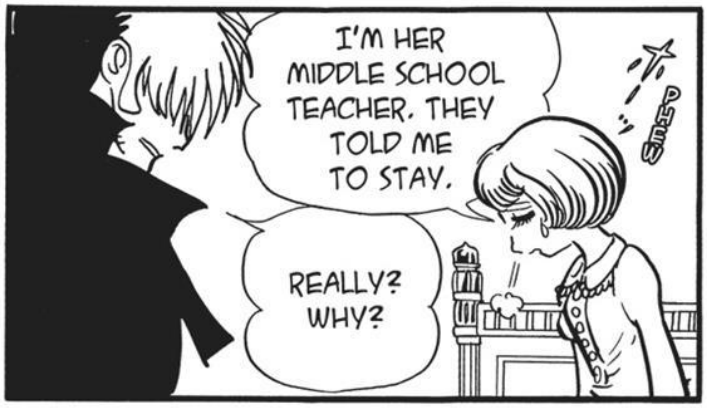
SO WHEN YOU SAID YOU'RE NEVER HOME...


MY SERVANT WAKES ME AT NIGHTFALL. HA HA.
I'M ASLEEP IN A BOX IN THE CELLAR.

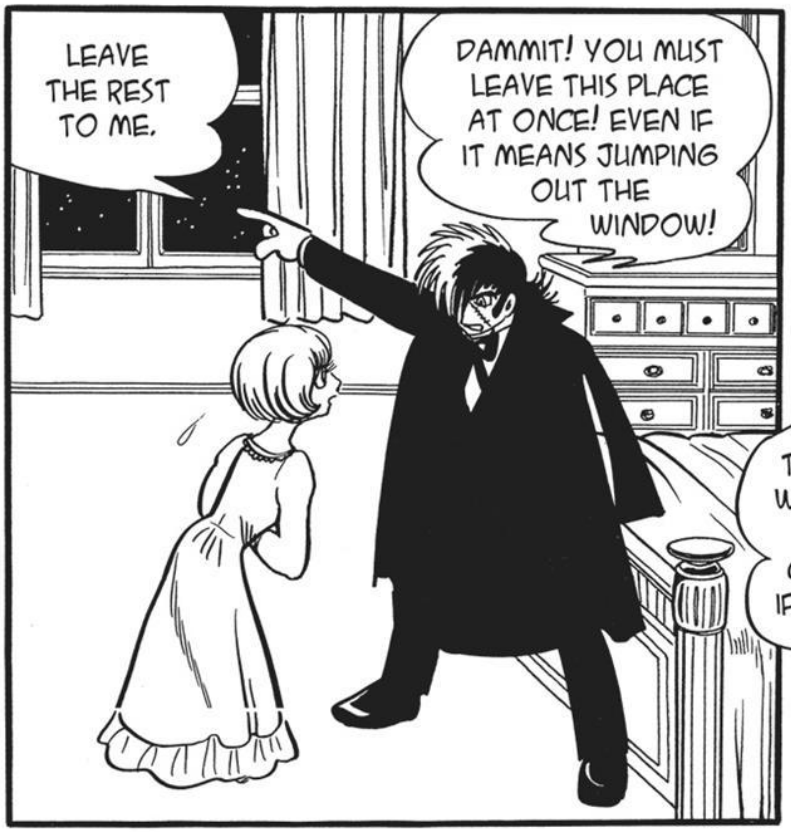
WHY DON'T YOU STAY?
IT'S TEN. WILD DOGS HUNT ALONG THE ROAD.
AWOOO
WOOO
YOU'RE LEAVING AT THIS HOUR?
TAKE CARE.
PREPARE A ROOM FOR OUR GUEST.
B-BUT ...
WOOOOO
THE LOOK IN HIS EYES WHEN I CUT MY FINGER! COULD HE BE...
COULD HE...?


...
KLIK
ガチャリ
AAAH!
キャ
HELP!
DEVIL!
WHO ARE YOU?

SHE USUALLY SLEEPS HERE. WHERE'S THE GIRL AND HER FATHER?
I'M A DOCTOR. I TREAT THE DAUGHTER OF THE HOUSE.

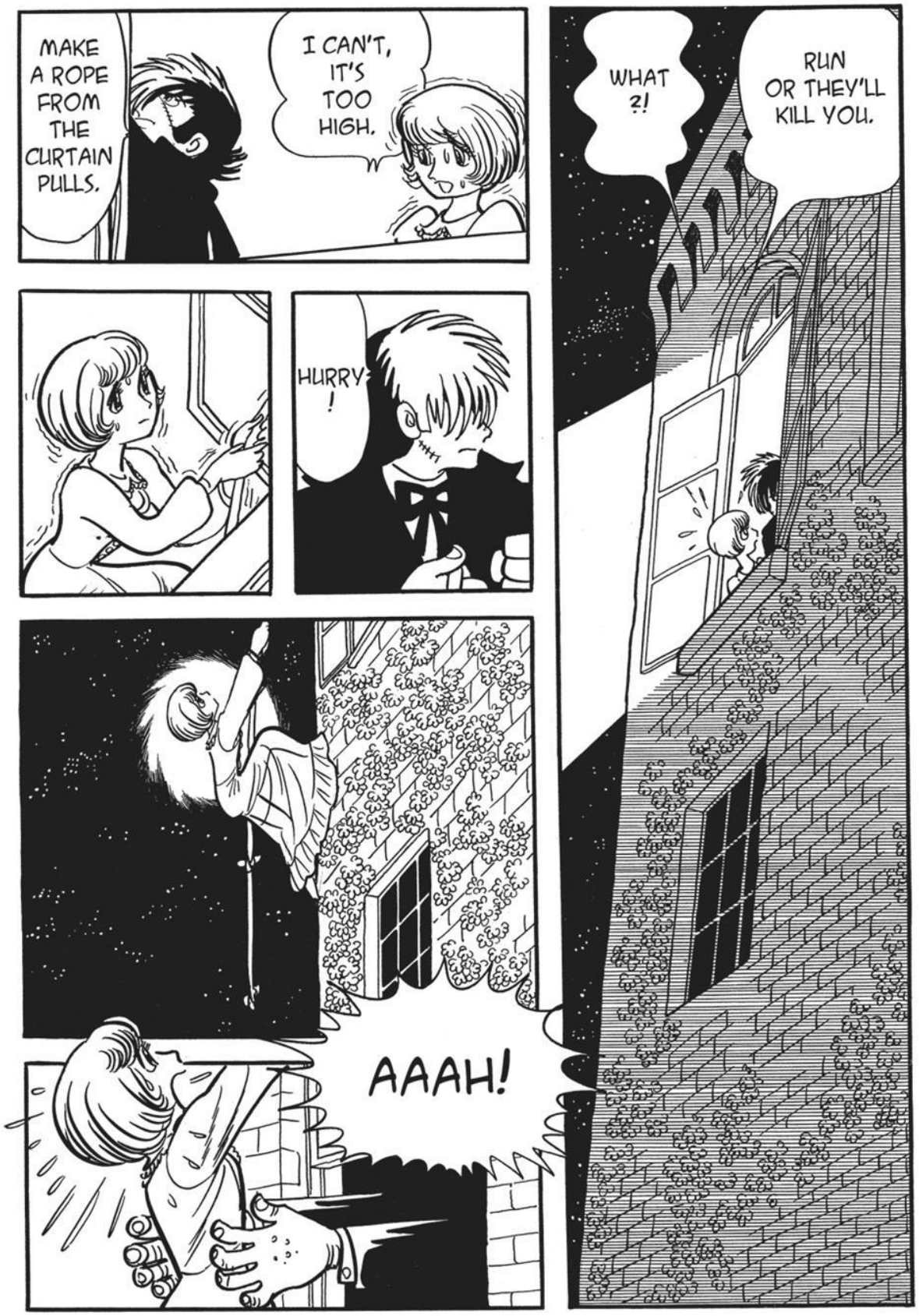

I'M HER MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER. THEY TOLD ME TO STAY.
REALLY? WHY?

I D-DON'T KNOW, I'M JUST VISITING ...

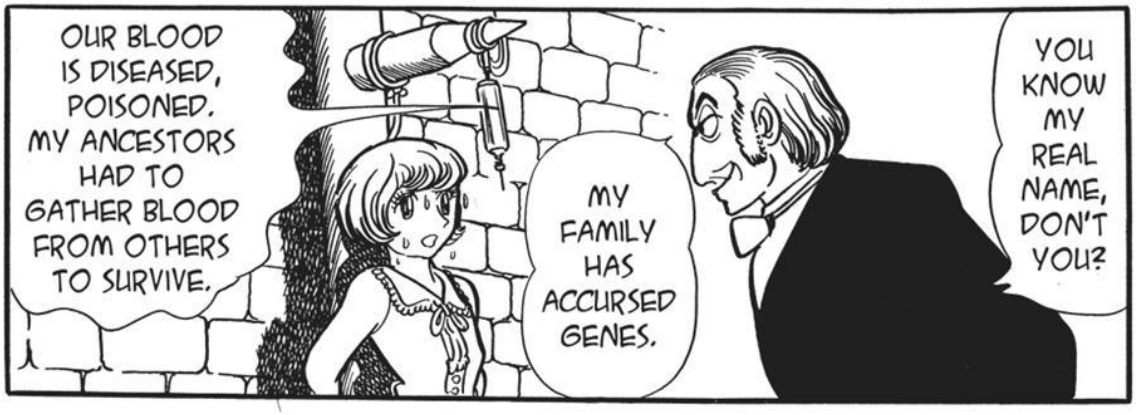

LEAVE THE REST TO ME.
DAMMIT! YOU MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE! EVEN IF IT MEANS JUMPING OUT THE WINDOW!

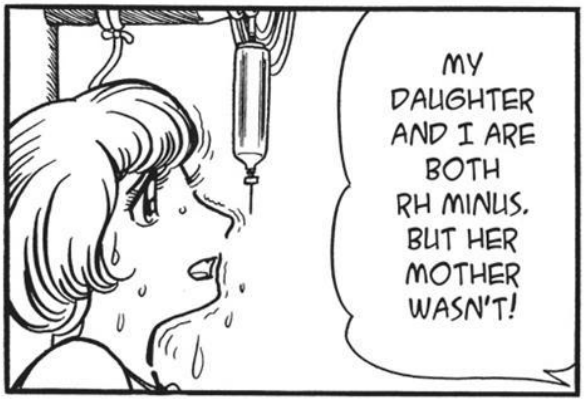
DO YOU MEAN THEY FORCED YOU TO STAY?

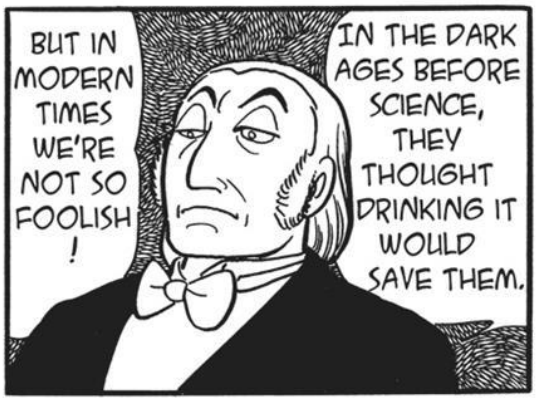
THEY SAID WILD DOGS WOULD GET ME IF I LEFT.
YES, EXACTLY.


MAKE A ROPE FROM THE CURTAIN PULLS.
I CAN'T, IT'S TOO HIGH.
HURRY!
WHAT?!
RUN OR THEY'LL KILL YOU.
AAAH!

NO!!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?
BE QUIET. WE NEED YOUR BLOOD TO SAVE HER.
MY BLOOD?! WHY?
WE TESTED YOUR BLOOD AND FOUND IT TO BE A PERFECT MATCH.
WE'LL TAKE IT!
WE'VE WAITED FOR SUCH BLOOD!
YOU HAVE RH-MINUS BLOOD.

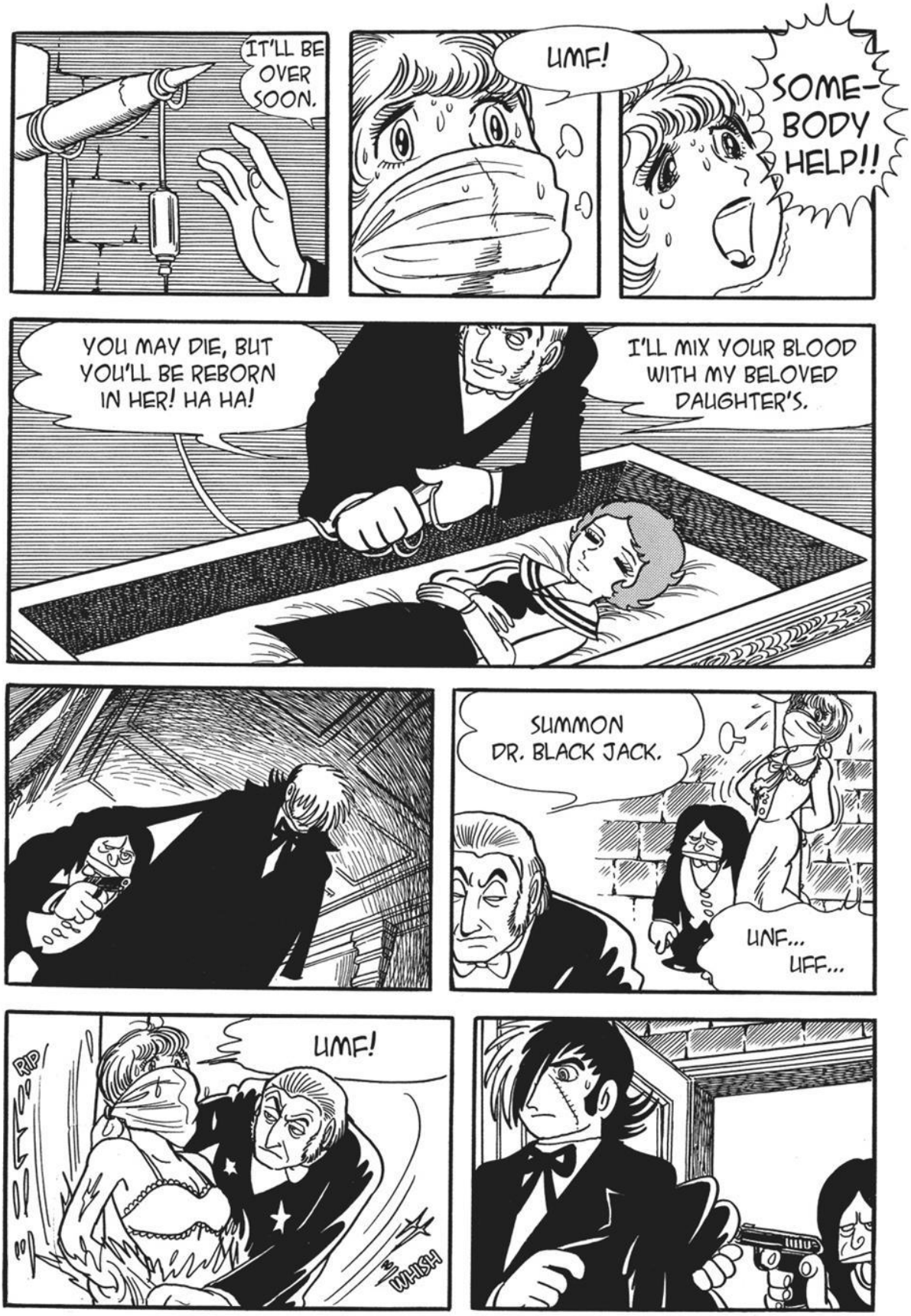

OUR BLOOD IS DISEASED, POISONED. MY ANCESTORS HAD TO GATHER BLOOD FROM OTHERS TO SURVIVE.
MY FAMILY HAS ACCURSED GENES.
YOU KNOW MY REAL NAME, DON'T YOU?


MY DAUGHTER AND I ARE BOTH RH MINUS. BUT HER MOTHER WASN'T!

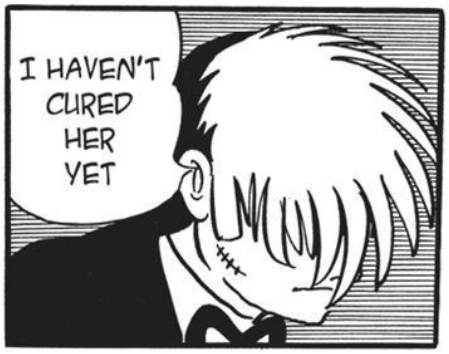

BUT IN MODERN TIMES WE'RE NOT SO FOOLISH!
IN THE DARK AGES BEFORE SCIENCE, THEY THOUGHT DRINKING IT WOULD SAVE THEM.

I WILL DO ANYTHING TO SAVE HER. I WON'T EVEN REGRET MURDER.

IN THE WOMB, HER MOTHER'S BLOOD MIXED IN, CAUSING A UNIQUE BLOOD DISEASE. WE NEED ANOTHER HUMAN'S RH-MINUS BLOOD TO CHANGE HER TYPE BACK.


IT'LL BE OVER SOON.
UMF!
SOME-BODY HELP!!
YOU MAY DIE, BUT YOU'LL BE REBORN IN HER! HA HA!
I'LL MIX YOUR BLOOD WITH MY BELOVED DAUGHTER'S.
SUMMON DR. BLACK JACK.
UNF... UFF...
RIP!
UMF!
WHISH

I CAME ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN IN ORDER TO HAVE YOU, A GREAT SURGEON, SAVE HER.
DOCTOR, DO THE EXCHANGE TRANSFUSION.
I EVEN PAID YOU $100,000.

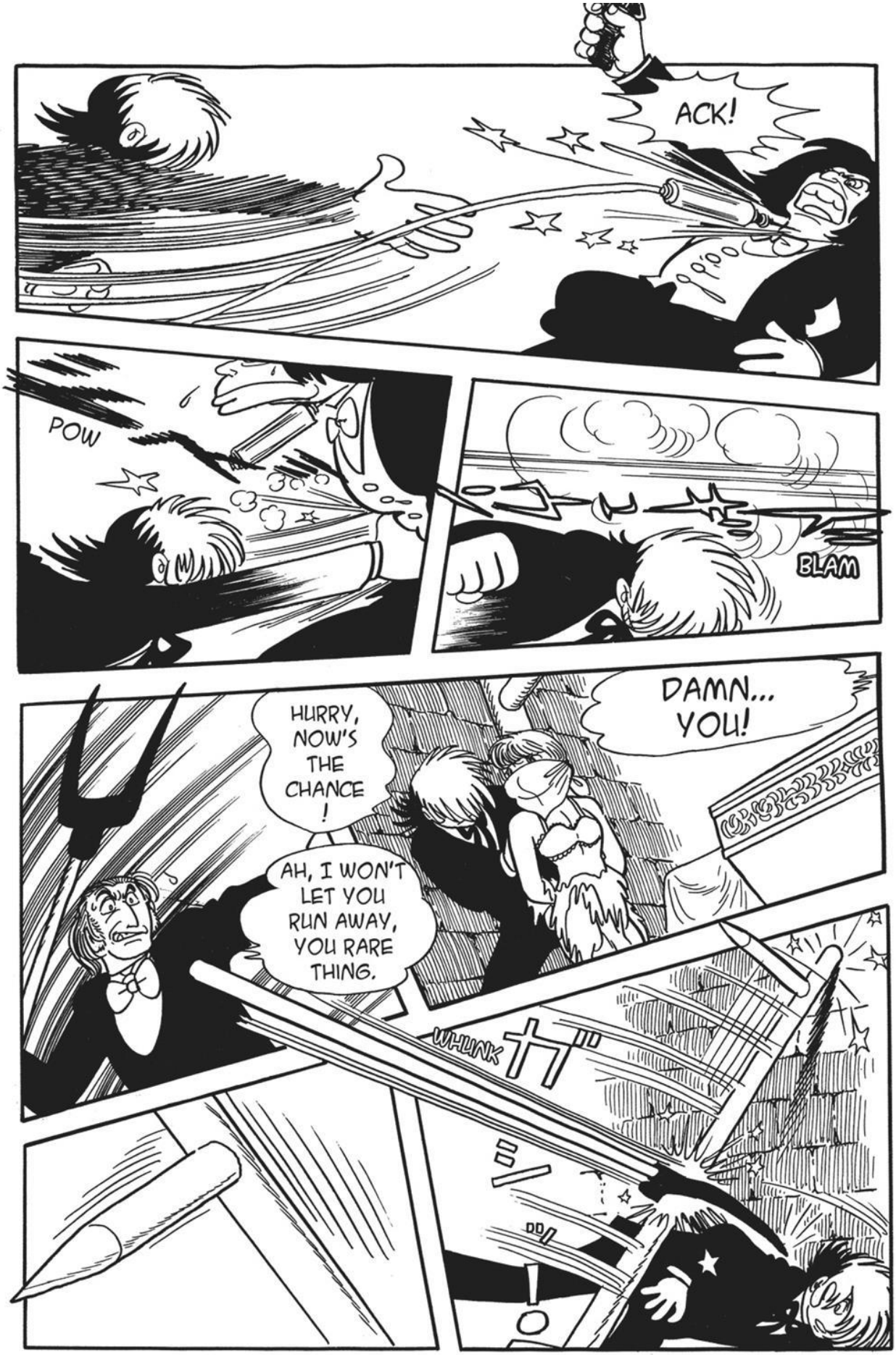

I HAVEN'T CURED HER YET

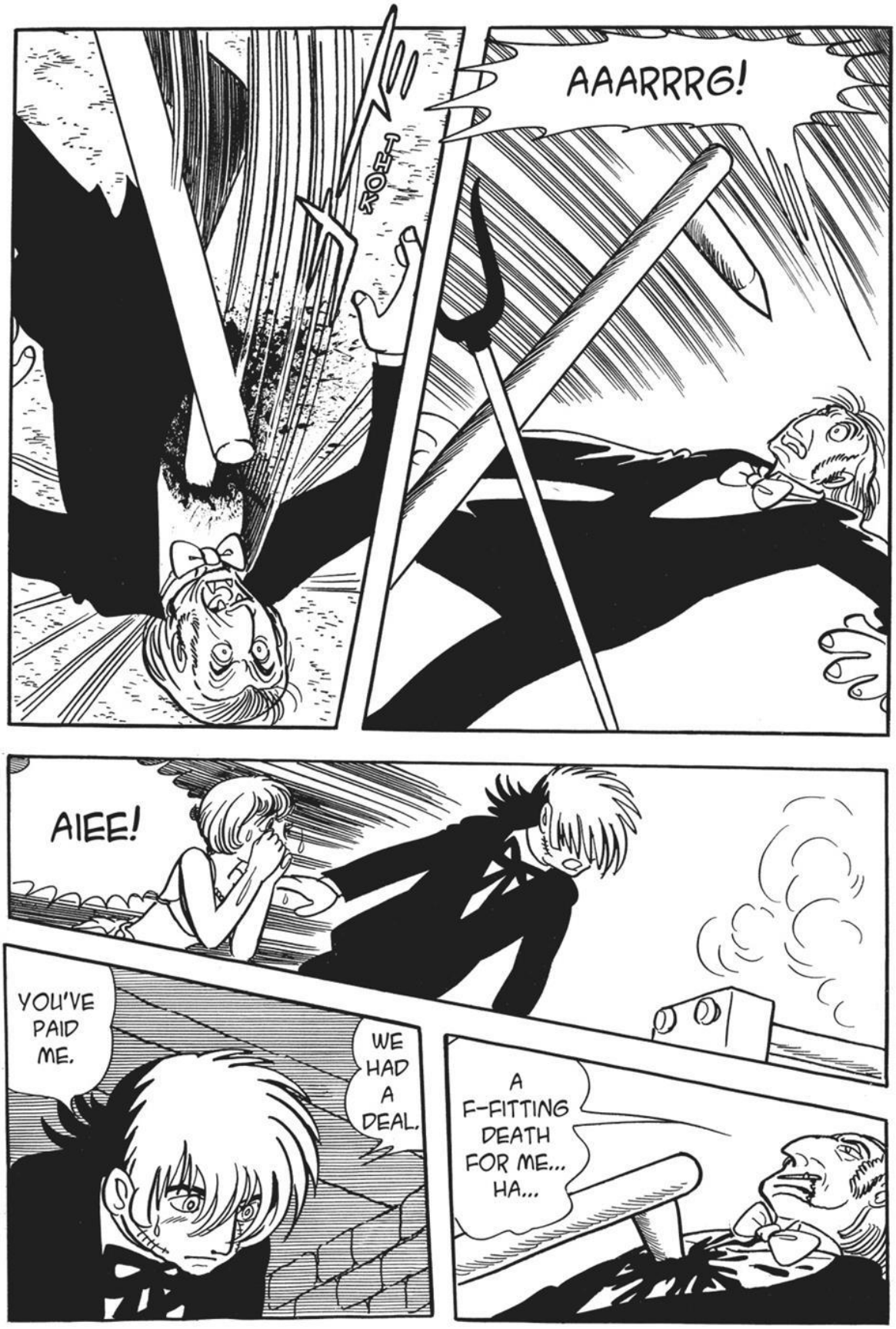
YET YOU HAVEN'T CURED HER. YOU ARE INCOMPETENT. NOW YOU WILL DO AS I SAY.

BEGIN.

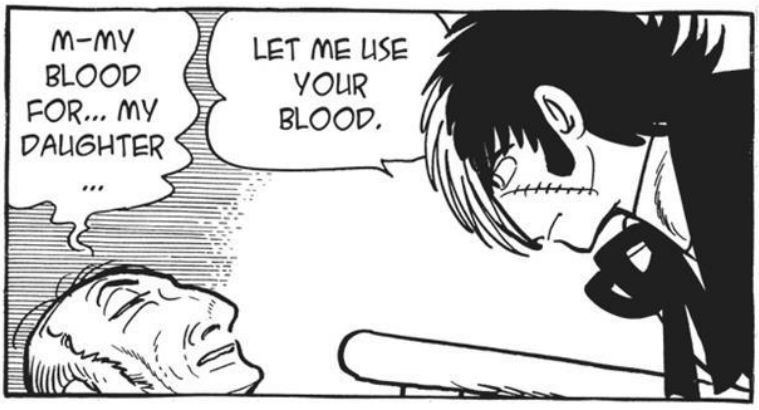
AND THIS TEACHER WILL DIE!
YOU'LL USE HER BLOOD!

BE-CAUSE I WAS
WAITING FOR AN RH-MINUS CORPSE!

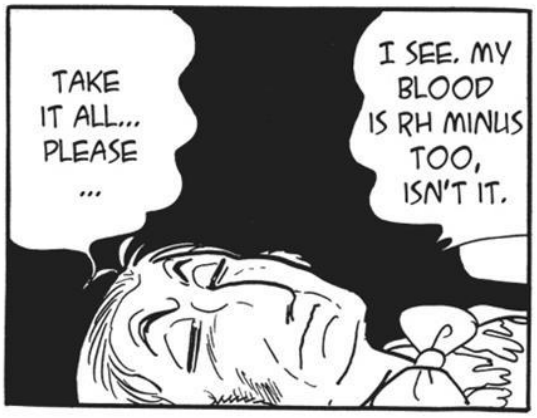

ACK!
POW
BLAM
DAMN... YOU!
HURRY, NOW'S THE CHANCE !
AH, I WON'T LET YOU RUN AWAY, YOU RARE THING.
WHUNK


AAARRRG!
FLOP
AIEE!
YOU'VE PAID ME.
WE HAD A DEAL.
A F-FITTING DEATH FOR ME... HA...

I CAN SAVE HER THIS TIME.

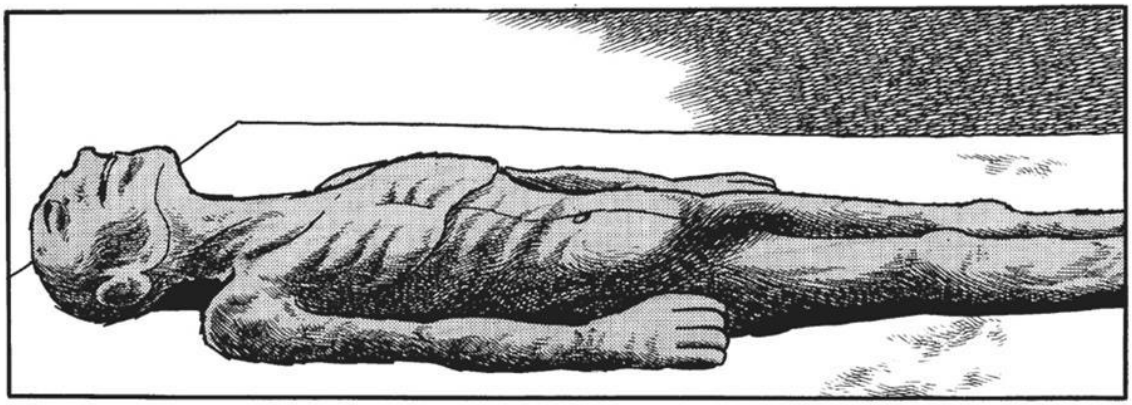

M-MY BLOOD FOR... MY DAUGHTER ...
LET ME USE YOUR BLOOD.

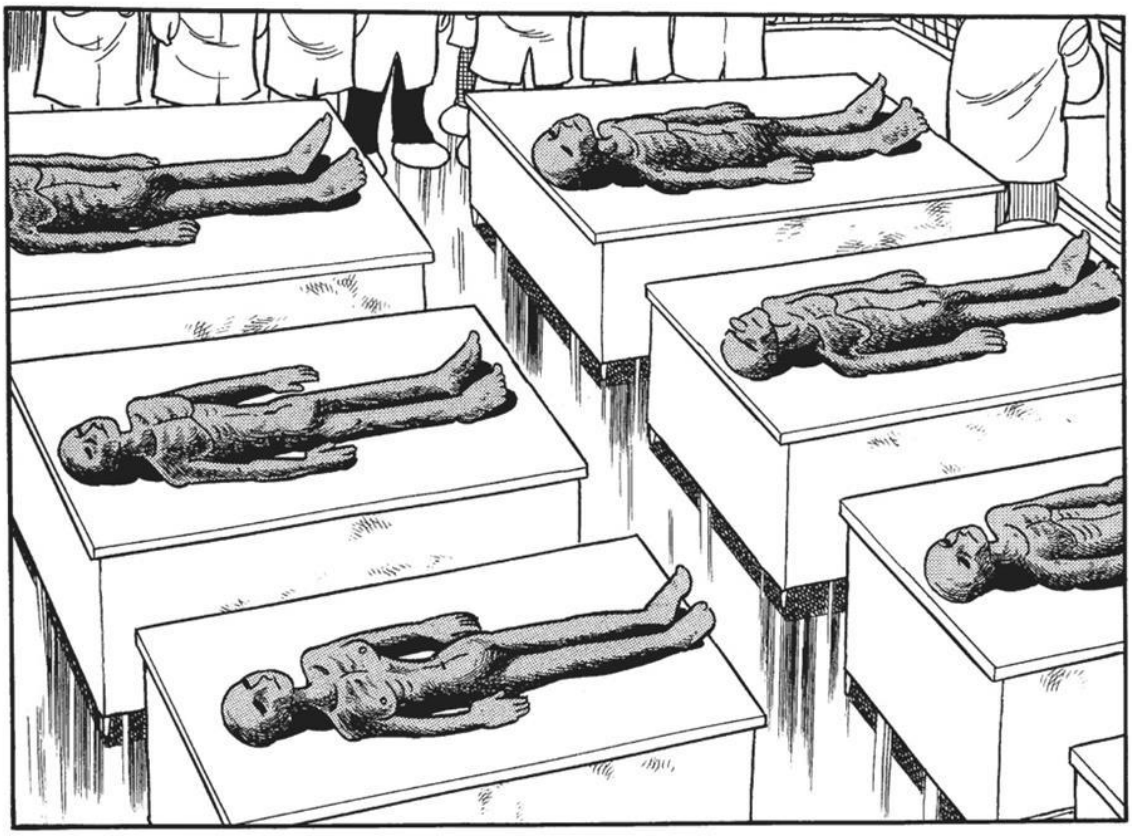
SLUMP
ガクリ

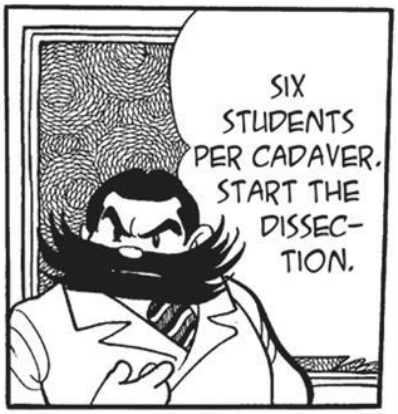

TAKE IT ALL... PLEASE ...
I SEE. MY BLOOD IS RH MINUS TOO, ISN'T IT.

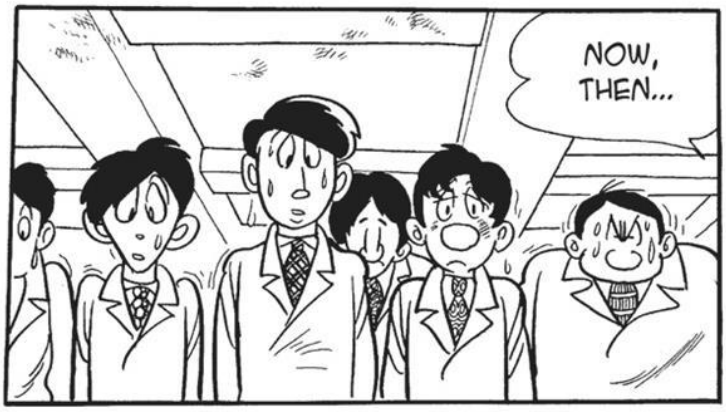
TO THE TRAGIC DRACULA CLAN.
I DEDICATE THIS SURGERY

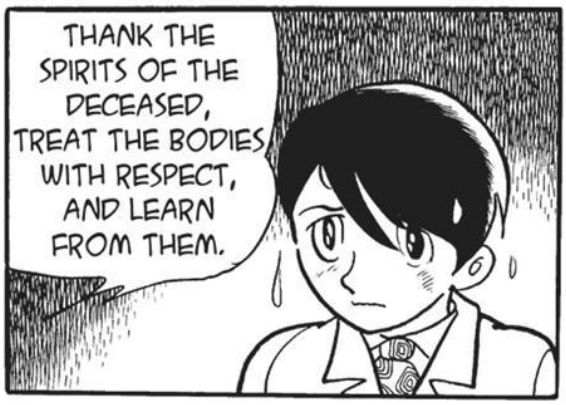
DIALOGUE WITH THE DEAD





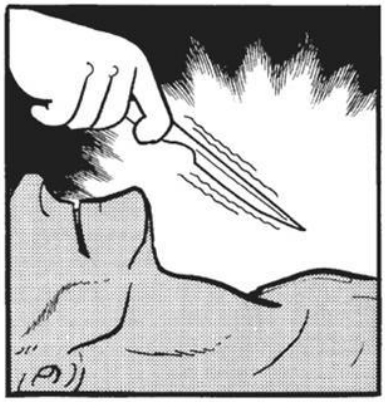

SIX STUDENTS PER CADAVER. START THE DISSEC-TION.


NOW, THEN...


THANK THE SPIRITS OF THE DECEASED, TREAT THE BODIES WITH RESPECT, AND LEARN FROM THEM.

THESE CADAVERS HAVE BEEN DONATED FOR YOU TO PRACTICE ON.

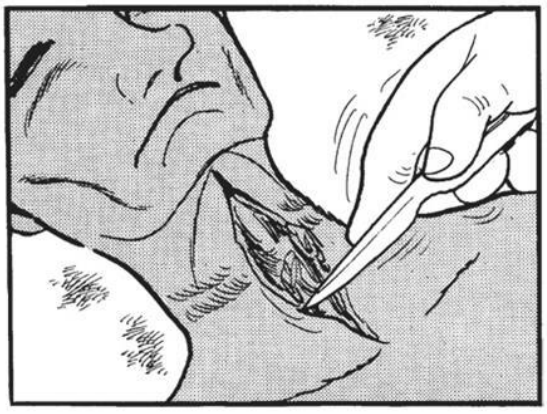
START BY SLICING DOWN THE THORACIC MEDIAN LINE.



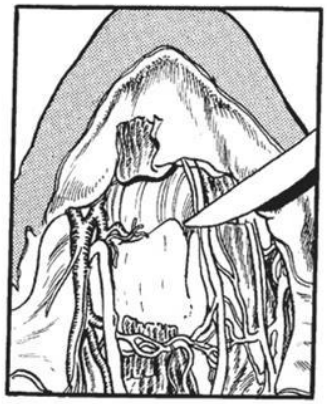
HM?
MABUTA! STOP ZONING OUT. CUT OPEN THE THROAT.
OH ...

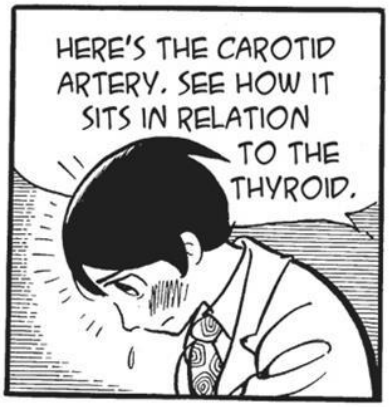
HEY, YOU DO IT.
ERMM, AFTER YOU.

YOU CAN'T JUST HACK IT OPEN.



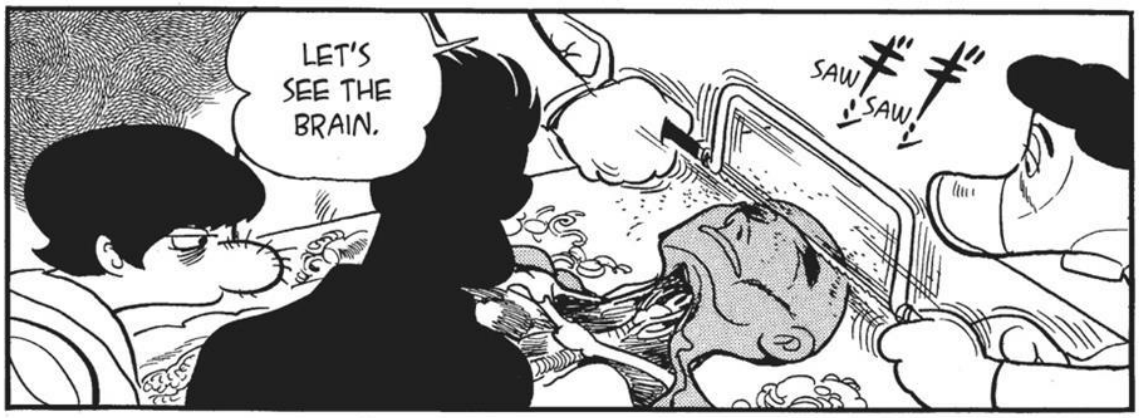
UH, MABUTA, YOU'RE NOT CUTTING?




HERE'S THE CAROTID ARTERY. SEE HOW IT SITS IN RELATION TO THE THYROID.

WHAT'S THIS?
THAT MUST BE THE GALL BLADDER. IT'S WAY SMALLER THAN I THOUGHT.
I GUESS HE DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF GUTS! HA HA!

HA! INTESTINES LOOK LIKE SAUSAGE!
UGH!


LET'S SEE THE BRAIN.
SAW
SAW

SO THIS IS WHAT A PERSON IS? THIS PILE OF FLESH WAS REALLY A HUMAN?
"GAG" "GAG"
"RETCH"
UGH!
GOT A LIGHT ?
YOU
THANKS...
UH
UGH!

WELL, DISSEC-TION.
AUTOPSY?
I'M A FIRST-YEAR.

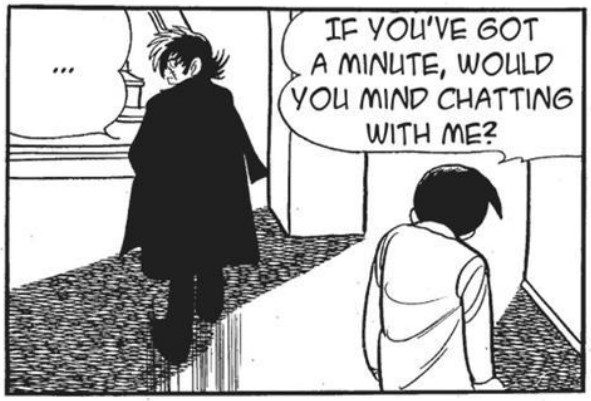
JUST SLICED OPEN A DEAD MAN ...
I'M GHOST-WHITE, RIGHT?

HOO.

THE STENCH OF DEAD BODIES MADE ME GAG.
EVERYONE HATES IT AT FIRST.

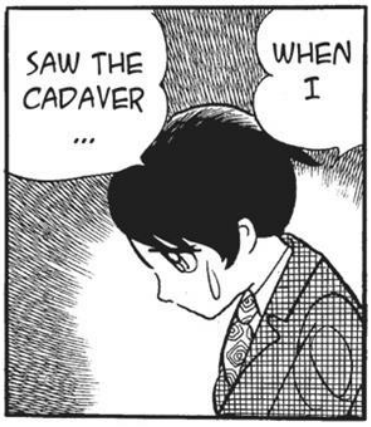
OH, ARE YOU AN ALUM?
YES, THIS IS MY ALMA MATER.
THEY MADE ME DO TONS OF THOSE MY FIRST YEAR.

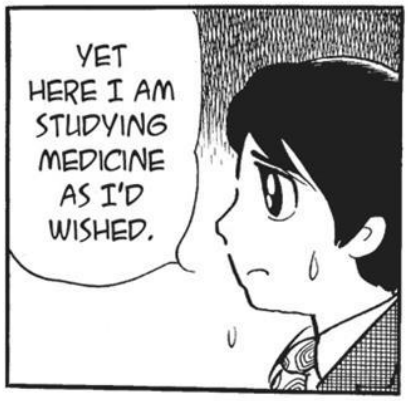
YES.
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PRACTICE?


...
IF YOU'VE GOT A MINUTE, WOULD YOU MIND CHATTING WITH ME?

"WE ALL END UP LIKE THAT."

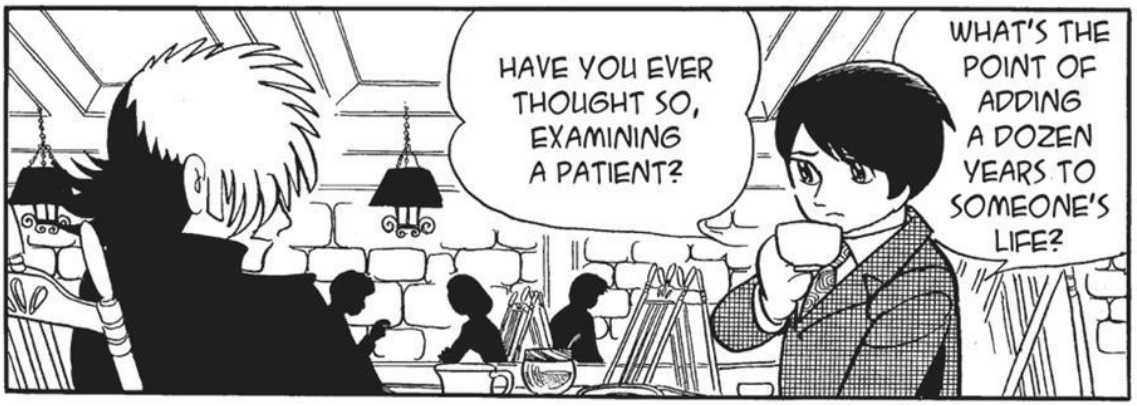
I SUDDENLY HAD THIS THOUGHT.

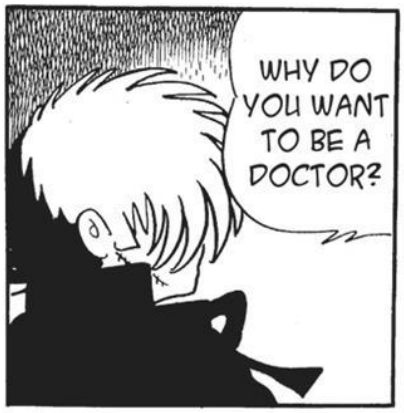

SAW THE CADAVER ...
WHEN I


YET HERE I AM STUDYING MEDICINE AS I'D WISHED.

SO WHY DO WE HAVE DOCTORS? AT MOST, DOCTORS CAN EXTEND LIFE FOR A DECADE OR SO. THAT'S IT.
NO MATTER HOW HEALTHY YOU ARE, YOU TURN INTO A CORPSE.
SOONER OR LATER,

I... I THINK IT'S FUTILE WORK.


HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT SO, EXAMINING A PATIENT?
WHAT'S THE POINT OF ADDING A DOZEN YEARS TO SOMEONE'S LIFE?


WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A DOCTOR?

THEN WHY DO YOU CONTI-NUE TO PRACTICE ?

I HAVE.

HUH?

ME, TOO.

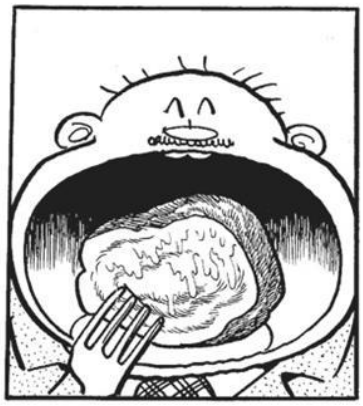
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE WORTH-WHILE...

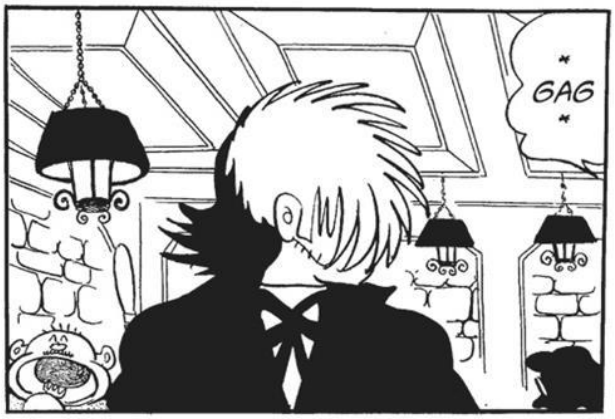
ギシ SAW
ギシ SAW

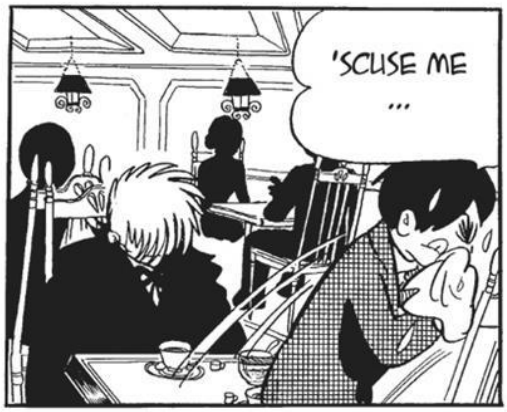
SAW ギシ
SAW ギシ

"GAG"

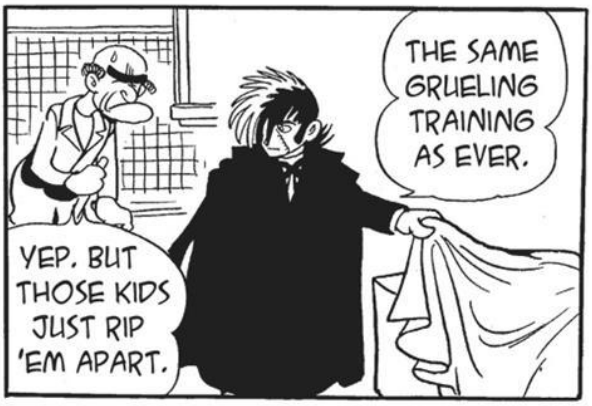
LICK!

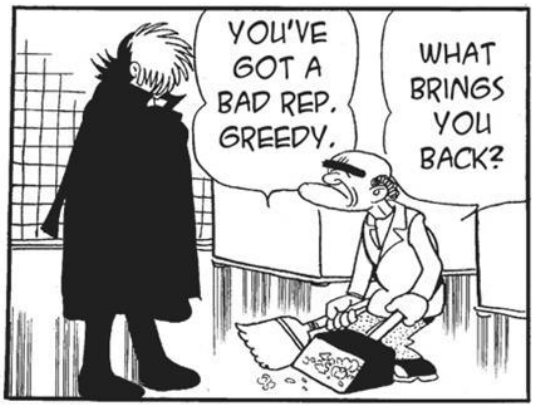


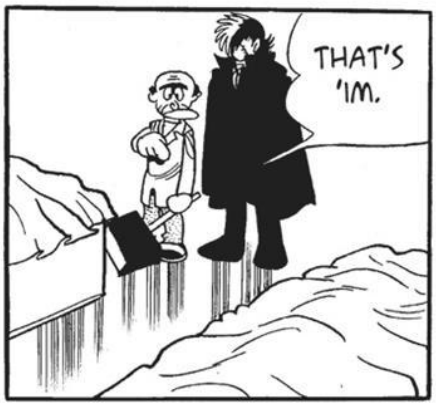

"GAG"


'SCUSE ME ...

DISSECTION ROOM
解剖実習室
THESE FOLKS WERE KIND ENOUGH TO DONATE THEIR BODIES TO SCIENCE.
JUST CUTTING UP CORPSES WITH NO CARE OR RESPECT.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! KIDS THESE DAYS!
THOSE YOUNG UNS'LL BE DAMNED!
OH, I REMEMBER. YOU MUST BE BLACK JACK, FROM THE 21ST CLASS!
YOU NEVER CHANGE DO YOU?
WHO ARE YOU?


THE SAME GRUELING TRAINING AS EVER.
YEP. BUT THOSE KIDS JUST RIP 'EM APART.


YOU'VE GOT A BAD REP. GREEDY.
WHAT BRINGS YOU BACK?


THAT'S 'IM.

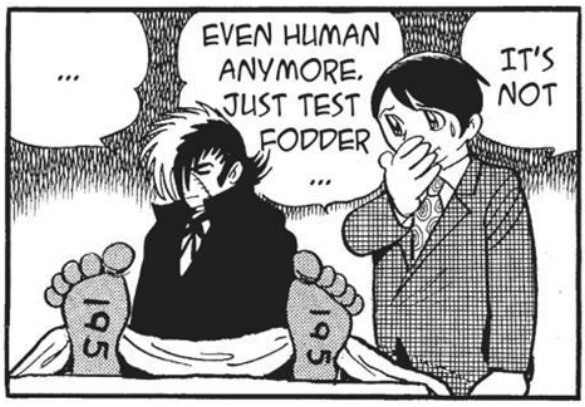
195... 195... AH, YES.
CAME HERE IN NOVEMBER.

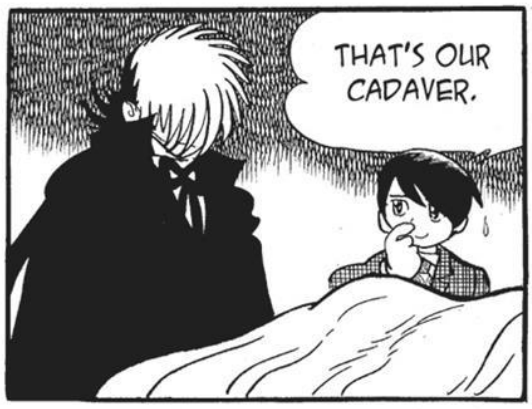
WHERE'S #195?

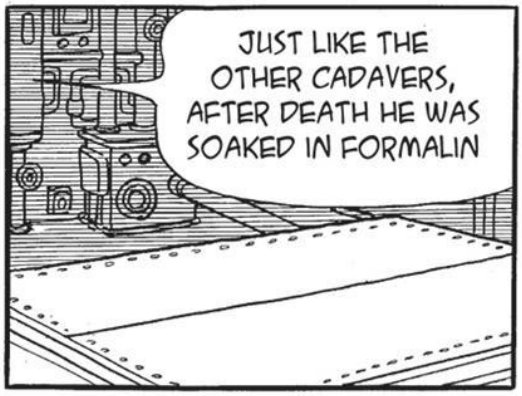
SO THIS IS #195 ...
THE FEET ARE NUMBERED.

I FORGOT MY NOTE-BOOK.

HEY, DOCTOR ...

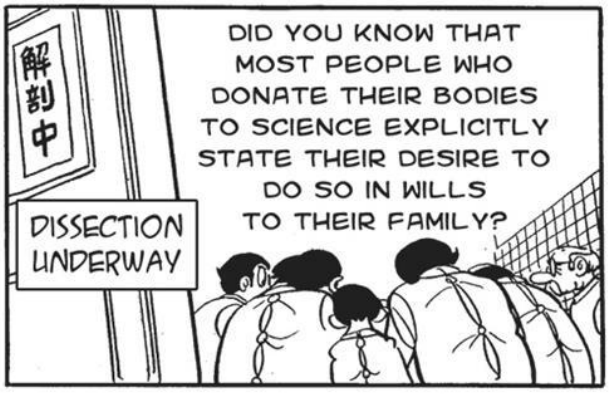

...
EVEN HUMAN ANYMORE. JUST TEST FODDER ...
IT'S NOT
195
195


THAT'S OUR CADAVER.

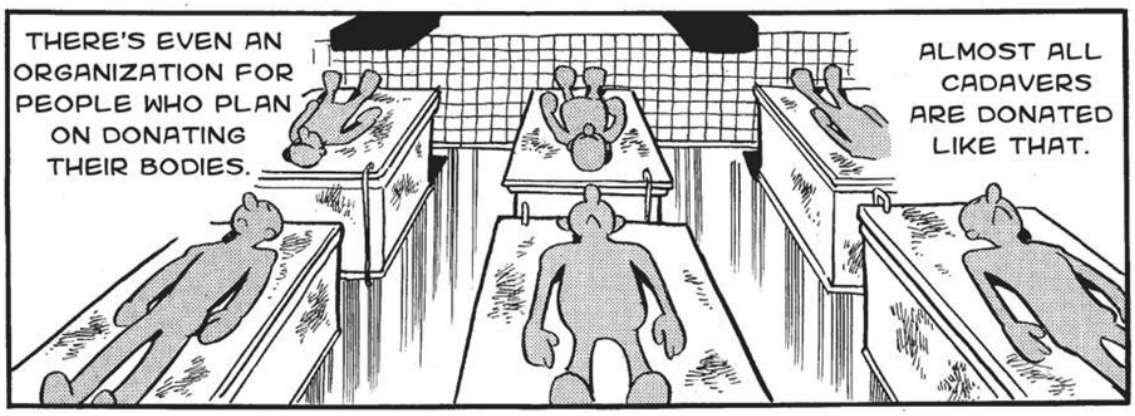

JUST LIKE THE OTHER CADAVERS, AFTER DEATH HE WAS SOAKED IN FORMALIN

HUH?

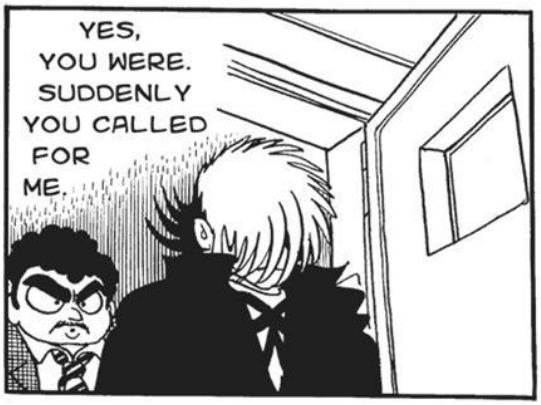
DON'T BE STUPID. HE'S MORE HUMAN THAN EVER.

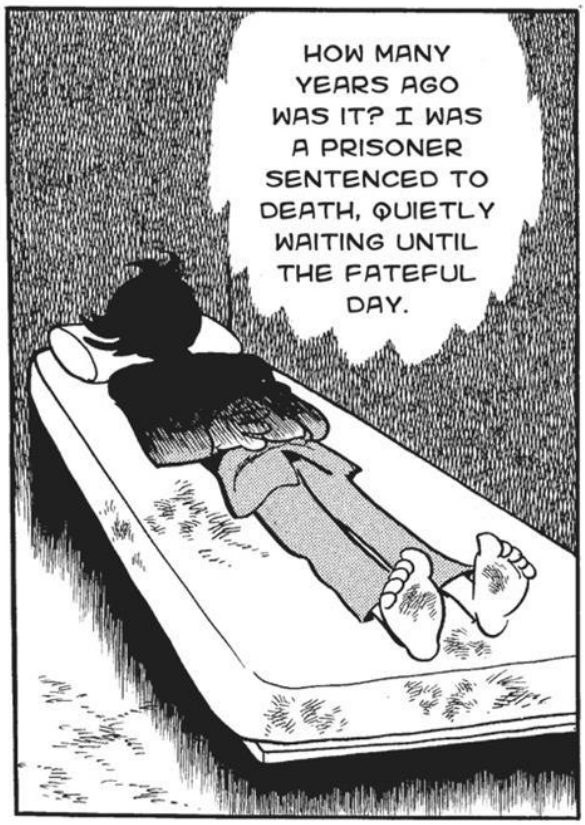

解剖中
DISSECTION UNDERWAY
DID YOU KNOW THAT MOST PEOPLE WHO DONATE THEIR BODIES TO SCIENCE EXPLICITLY STATE THEIR DESIRE TO DO SO IN WILLS TO THEIR FAMILY?

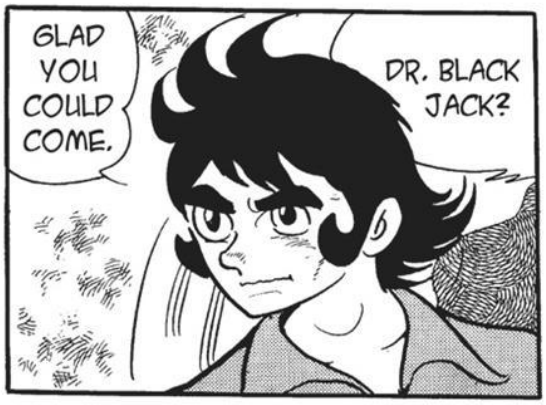
AND WAITED TO BE DELIVERED TO THIS ROOM.


THERE'S EVEN AN ORGANIZATION FOR PEOPLE WHO PLAN ON DONATING THEIR BODIES.
ALMOST ALL CADAVERS ARE DONATED LIKE THAT.

PERHAPS A PRISONER SENTENCED TO HANG.
ROPE MARKS ON THE NECK.
LOOK AT THAT BODY THERE.
ONCE IN A WHILE THERE WILL BE BODIES OF UNKNOWNS, PEOPLE WHO MAYBE FROZE TO DEATH.
SOME CADAVERS WERE PRISONERS.
EVEN THIS MAN...
YET ALL CADAVERS ARE EQUAL ONCE THEY ENTER THIS ROOM. THEY ALL COME TO FACE YOU STUDENTS.
DOCTOR! IT'S BEEN A WHILE! I'M SURPRISED YOU REMEMBER ME!


YES, YOU WERE. SUDDENLY YOU CALLED FOR ME.

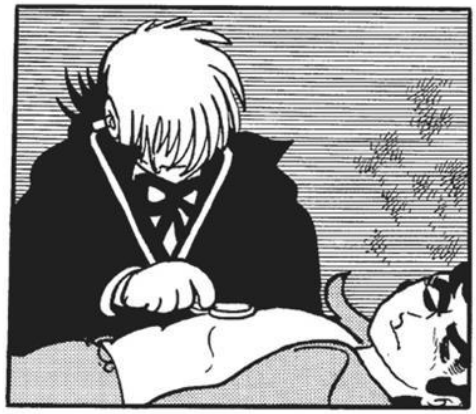

HOW MANY YEARS AGO WAS IT? I WAS A PRISONER SENTENCED TO DEATH, QUIETLY WAITING UNTIL THE FATEFUL DAY.


GLAD YOU COULD COME.
DR. BLACK JACK?

PLEASE! YOU'RE THE ONLY DOCTOR WHO CAN CURE ME!
I WANT YOU TO TREAT ME.

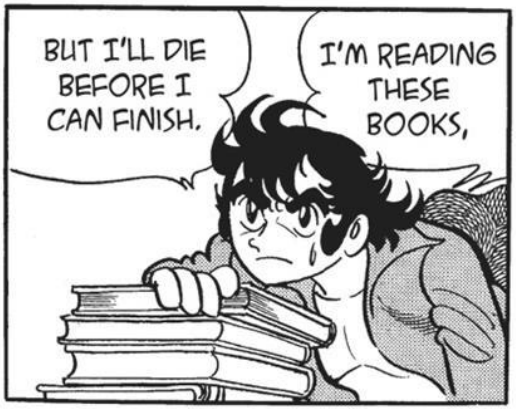
I'M 1 IN 100,000 TO GET IT.
A BIG GROWTH, RIGHT?

A NEURO-BLASTOMA.

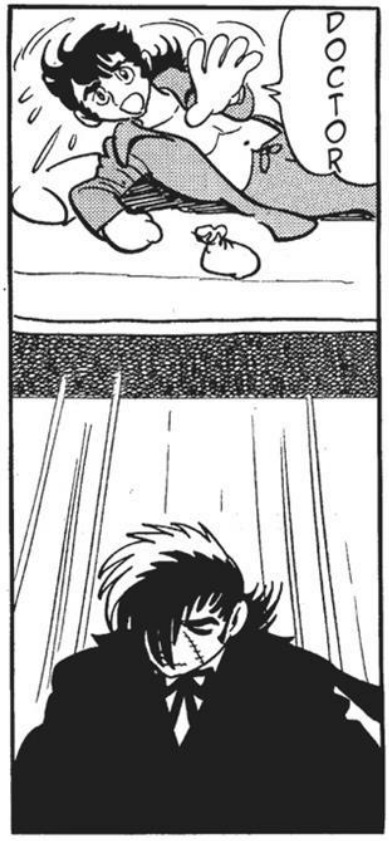


I WENT APESHIT AFTER THAT...
DOCTORS QUIETLY GAVE UP ON ME A YEAR AGO.

THIS SICKNESS IS THE REASON I TURNED OUT THIS WAY.


BUT I'LL DIE BEFORE I CAN FINISH.
I'M READING THESE BOOKS,

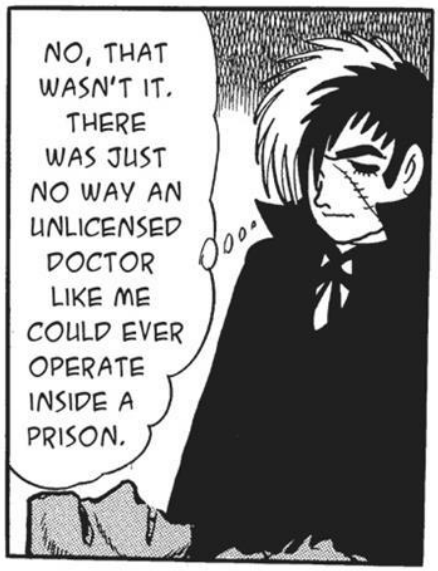
LOOK, DOC.

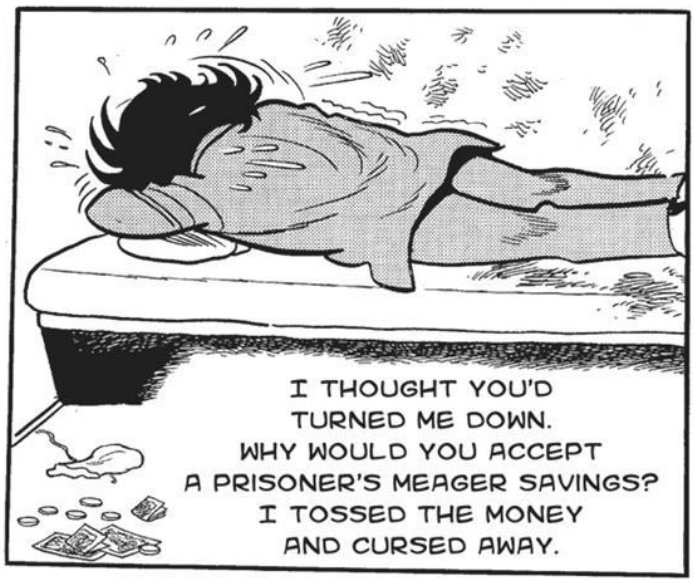

DOCTOR

I CAN PAY YOUR FEE.
I KNOW YOU'RE PRICEY.

HM!

I'M DONE WITH THESE!
PLEASE, JUST LET ME LIVE UNTIL


NO, THAT WASN'T IT. THERE WAS JUST NO WAY AN UNLICENSED DOCTOR LIKE ME COULD EVER OPERATE INSIDE A PRISON.


I THOUGHT YOU'D TURNED ME DOWN. WHY WOULD YOU ACCEPT A PRISONER'S MEAGER SAVINGS? I TOSSED THE MONEY AND CURSED AWAY.

OUT! YOU'RE RELEASED TO A DOCTOR'S CARE. LET'S GO.

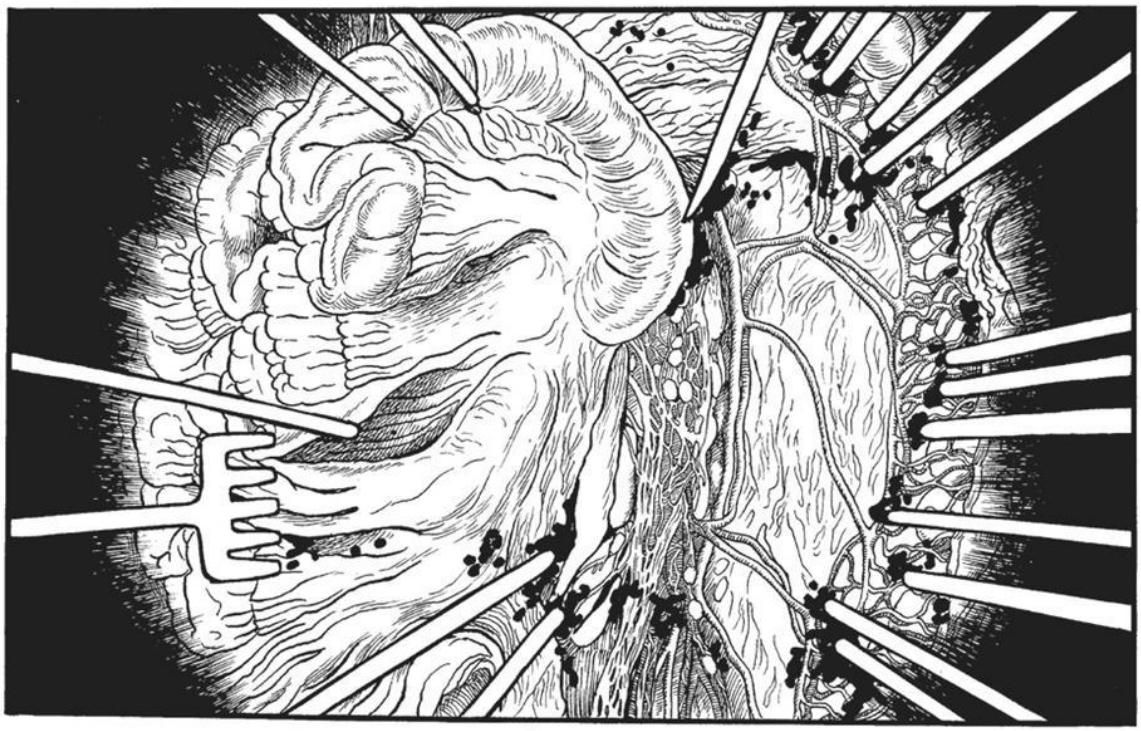
I WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU...

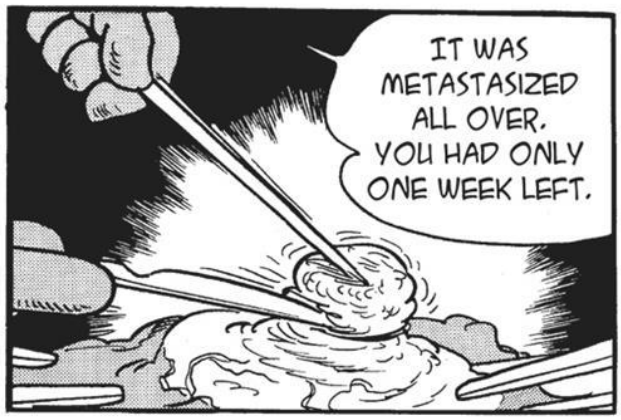
NO OTHER DOCTOR CAN CURE ME!
HAH !

WE'RE GOING TO DR. BLACK JACK'S.

...

WOULDN'T DO FOR A CROOK TO DIE OF NATURAL CAUSES.
WHY'S THE DOC BOTHERIN' TO OPERATE? HE'S ON DEATH ROW.

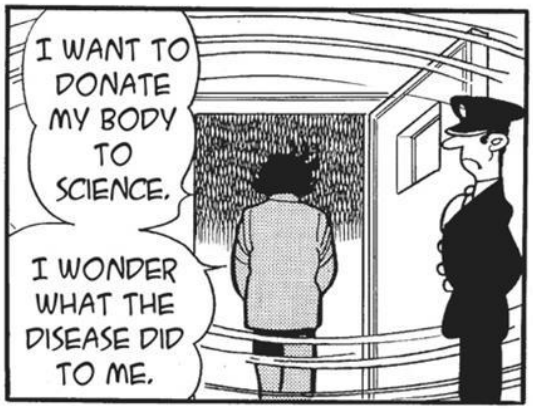


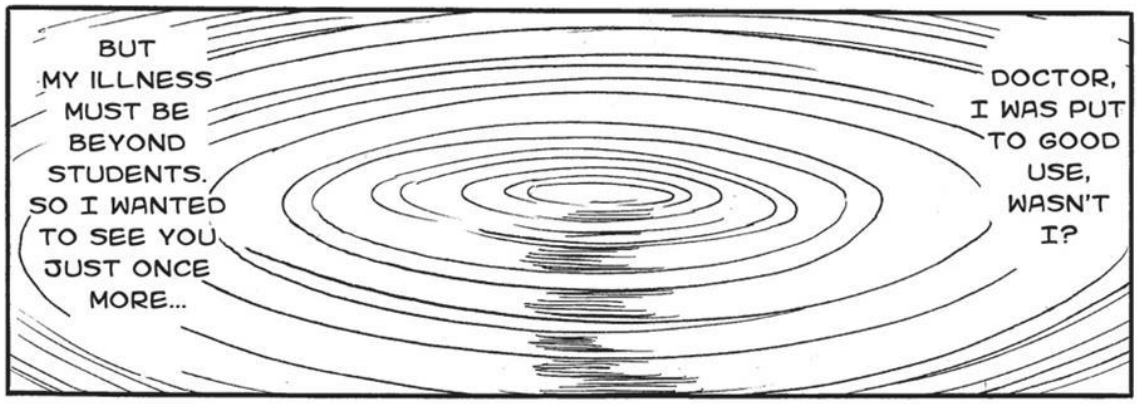

IT WAS METASTASIZED ALL OVER. YOU HAD ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT.

I WAS SO HAPPY, I HAD TO SCREAM.
BUT DOC, YOUR SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS. YOU REMOVED ALL THE TUMORS.
I'VE BEEN SAVED !!
MY LIFE HAS CHANGED !!
I'D NEVER LIVED SUCH A FULFILLING LIFE AS I DID THEN.
THE BIBLE, A BOOK ABOUT HOW TO LIVE, LIT UP MY WORLD.
I DEVOURED THOSE BOOKS.
BIBLE
聖書
I WAS REBORN.

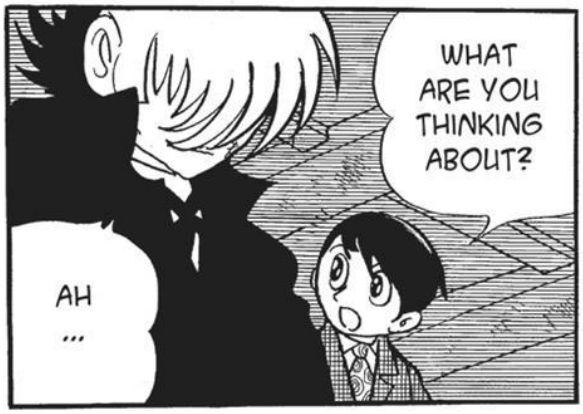
JUST ONE.
ANY LAST REQUESTS ?

FINALLY THE DAY OF MY EXECUTION CAME.
NOVEMBER 20TH OF LAST YEAR ...


I WANT TO DONATE MY BODY TO SCIENCE.
I WONDER WHAT THE DISEASE DID TO ME.


BUT MY ILLNESS MUST BE BEYOND STUDENTS. SO I WANTED TO SEE YOU JUST ONCE MORE...
DOCTOR, I WAS PUT TO GOOD USE, WASN'T I?

I WAS TALKING WITH THE CORPSE.
WHAT?!

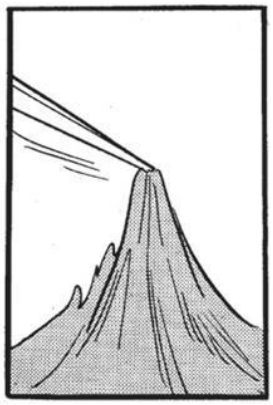

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
AH ...

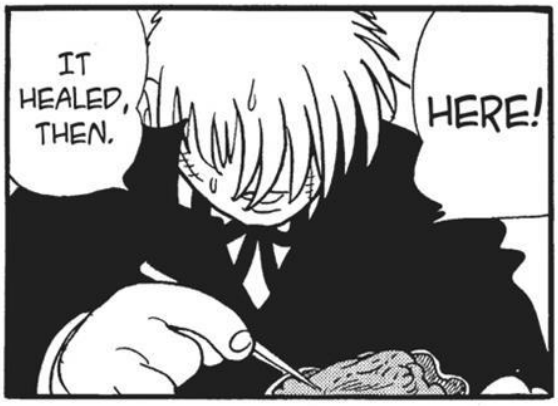
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE ANY SURGICAL SCARS WHEN YOU CUT HIM OPEN?

HIS NAME IS... WELL, #195. HE DIED ON NOVEMBER 20, 1975.
DID YOU KNOW HIM? WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

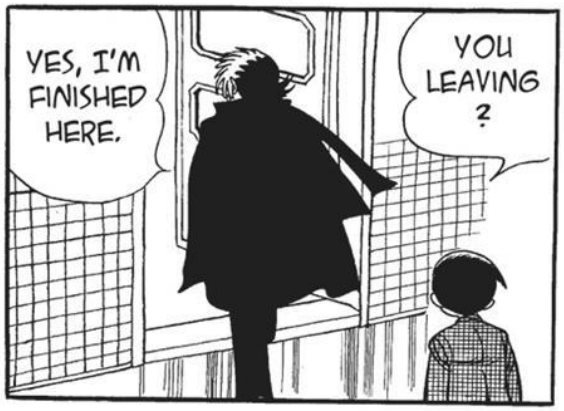
NO... ALL I MANAGED TO DO WAS CUT AWAY.

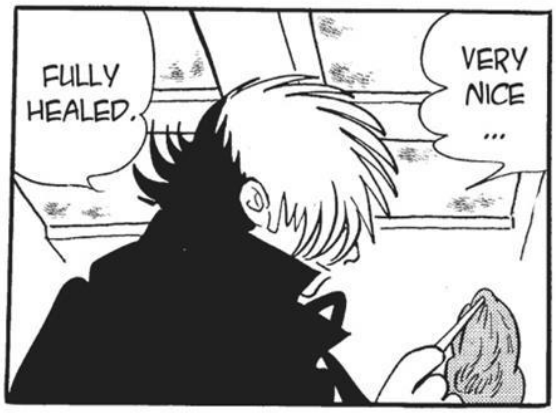
SEE? SUTURE SCARS.

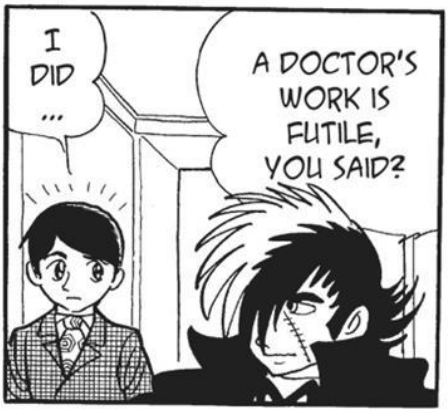


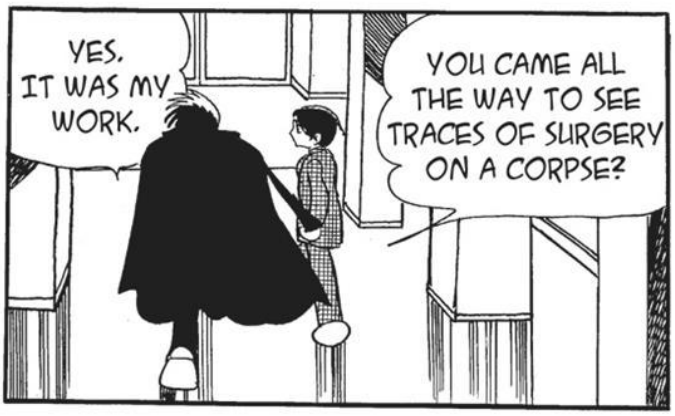

IT HEALED, THEN.
HERE!

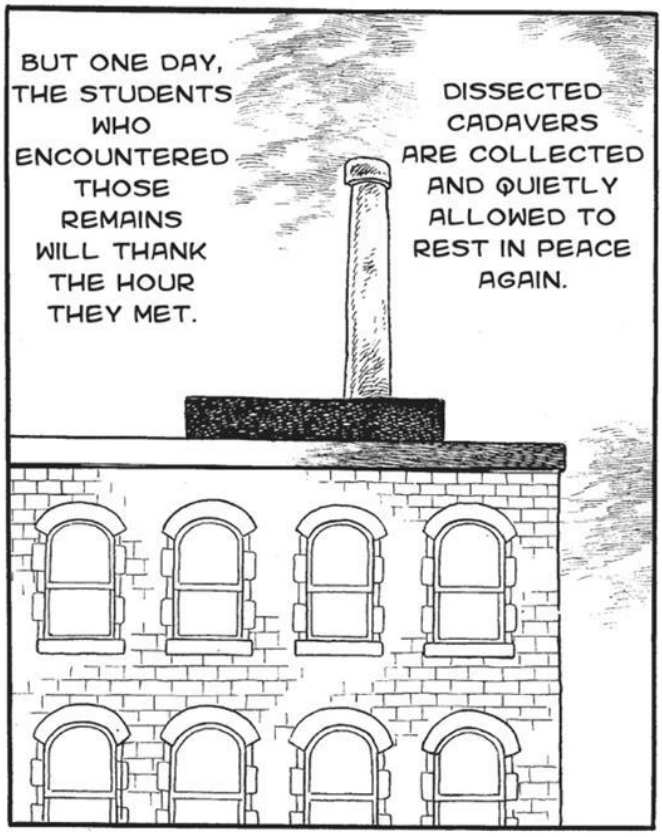
NO THANKS.
CAN I HELP?
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING FOR?

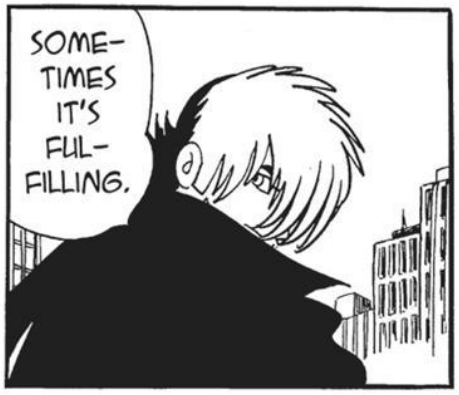

YES, I'M FINISHED HERE.
YOU LEAVING ?

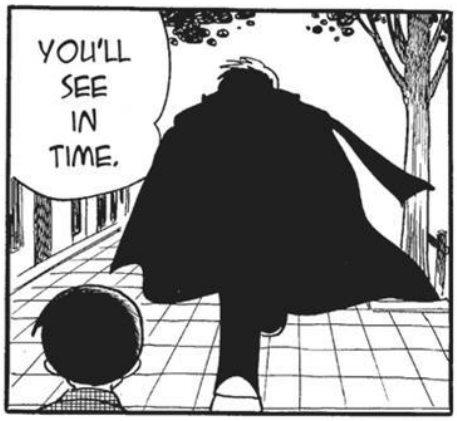

FULLY HEALED.
VERY NICE ...


I DID ...
A DOCTOR'S WORK IS FUTILE, YOU SAID?

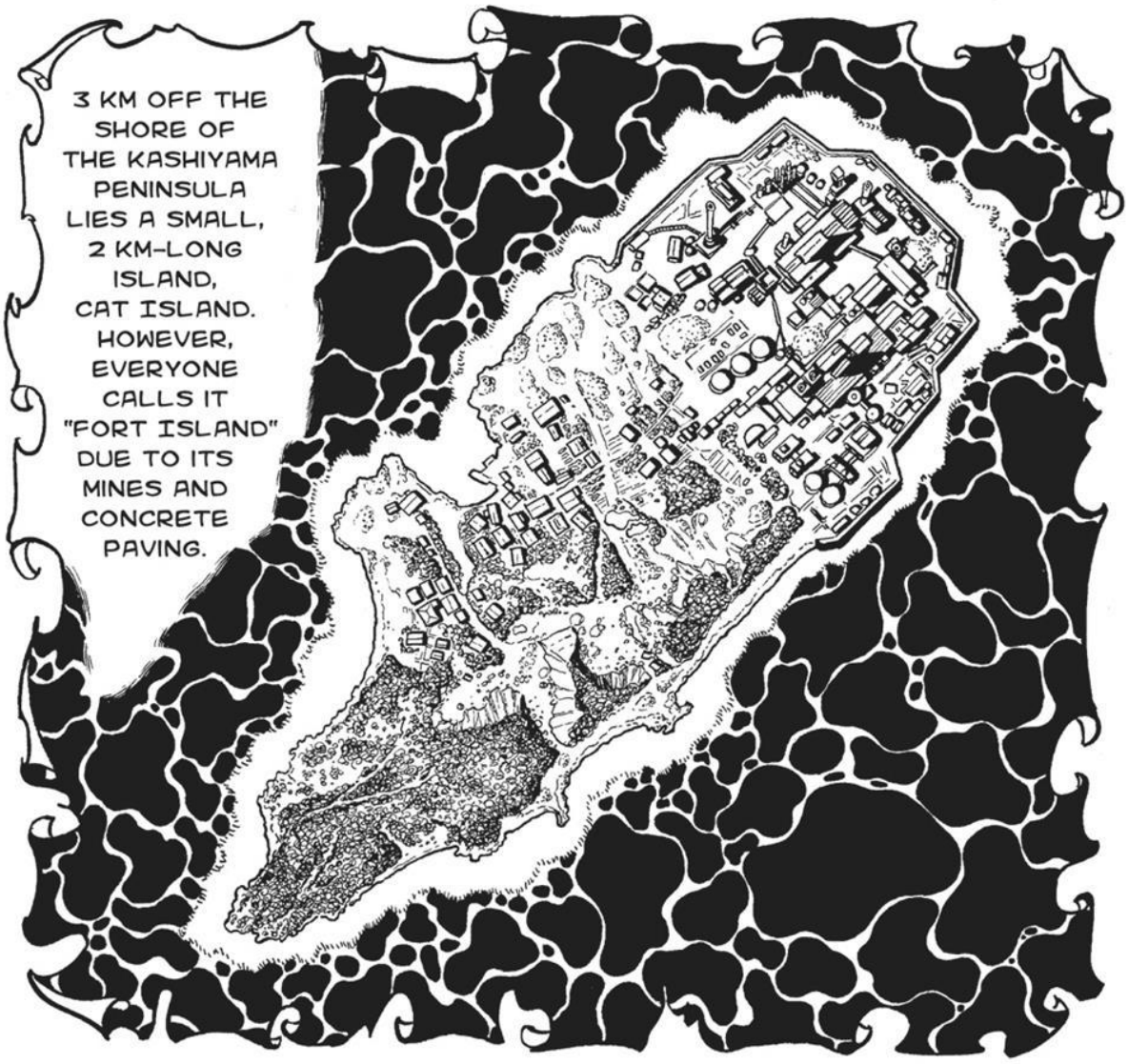

YES. IT WAS MY WORK.
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY TO SEE TRACES OF SURGERY ON A CORPSE?

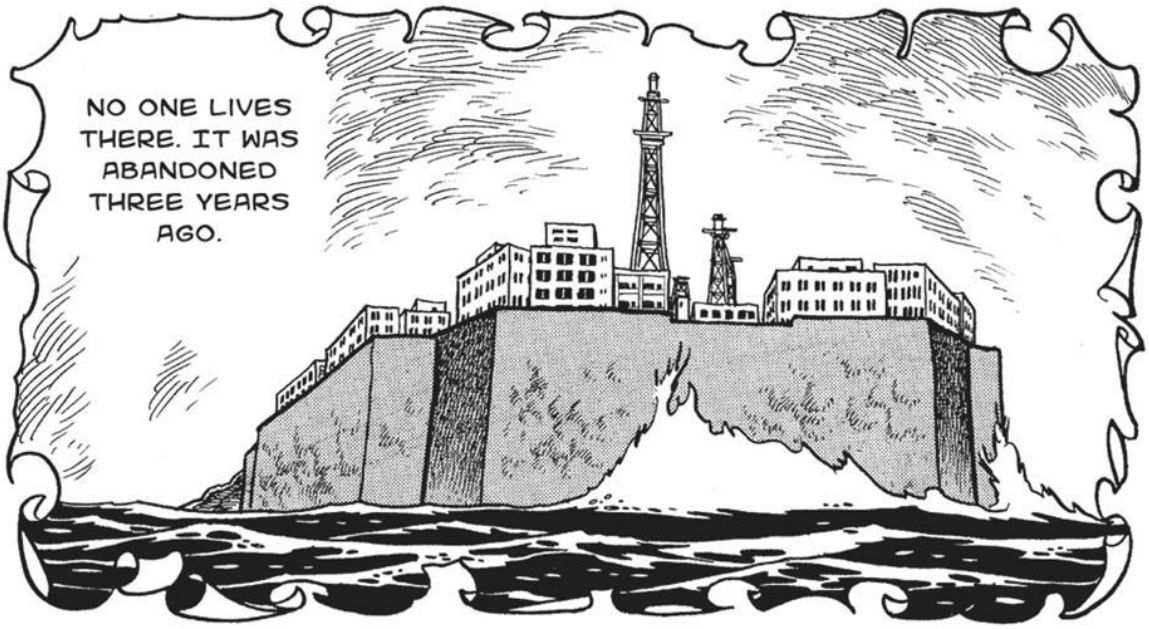

BUT ONE DAY, THE STUDENTS WHO ENCOUNTERED THOSE REMAINS WILL THANK THE HOUR THEY MET.
DISSECTED CADAVERS ARE COLLECTED AND QUIETLY ALLOWED TO REST IN PEACE AGAIN.

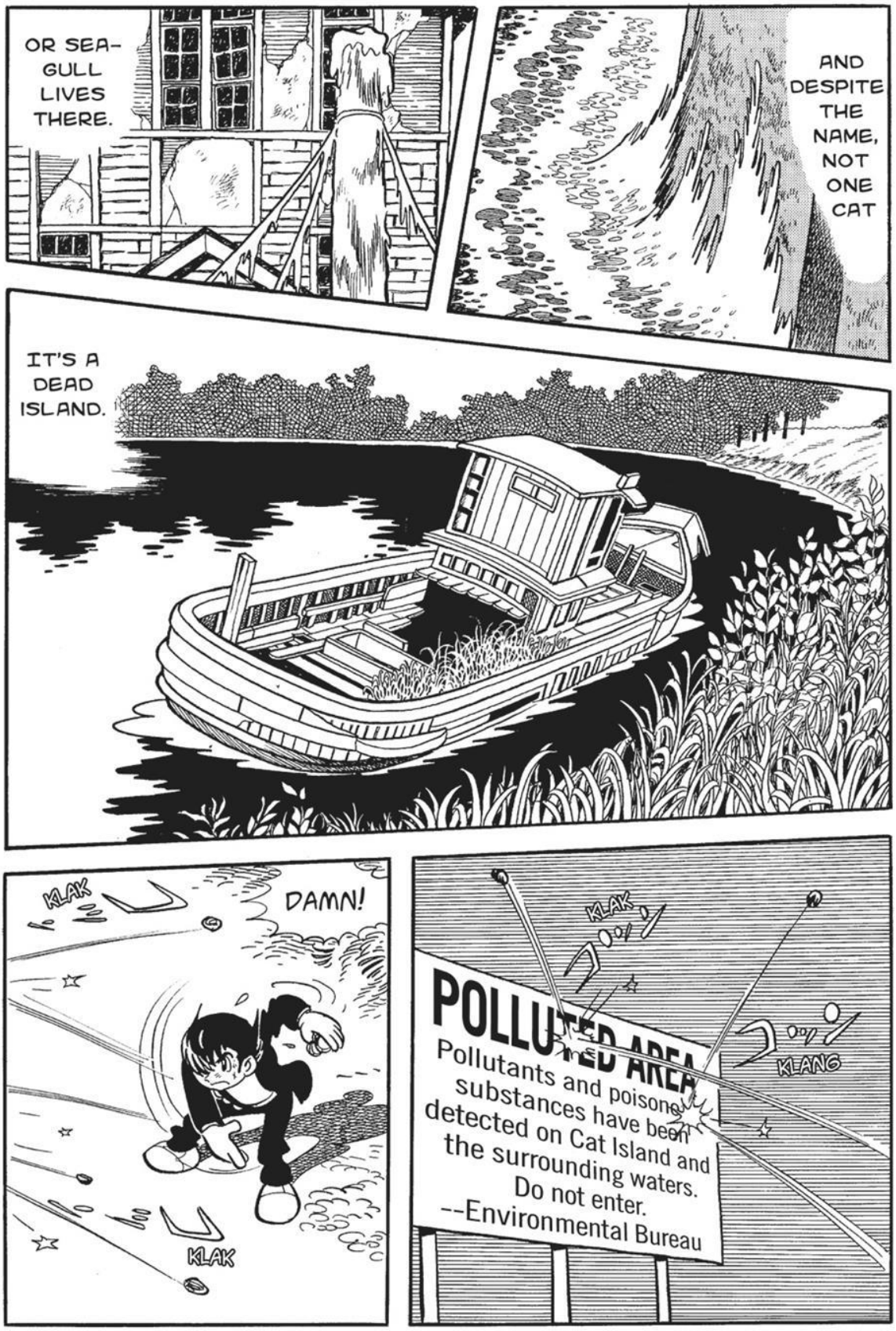

SOME-TIMES IT'S FUL-FILLING.

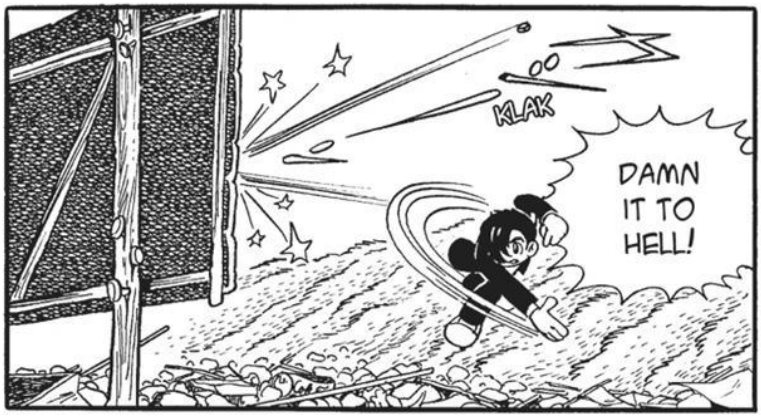

YOU'LL SEE IN TIME.

HOMESICKNESS

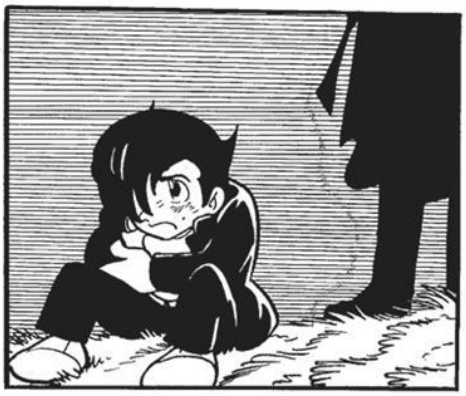

3 KM OFF THE SHORE OF THE KASHIYAMA PENINSULA LIES A SMALL, 2 KM-LONG ISLAND, CAT ISLAND. HOWEVER, EVERYONE CALLS IT "FORT ISLAND" DUE TO ITS MINES AND CONCRETE PAVING.

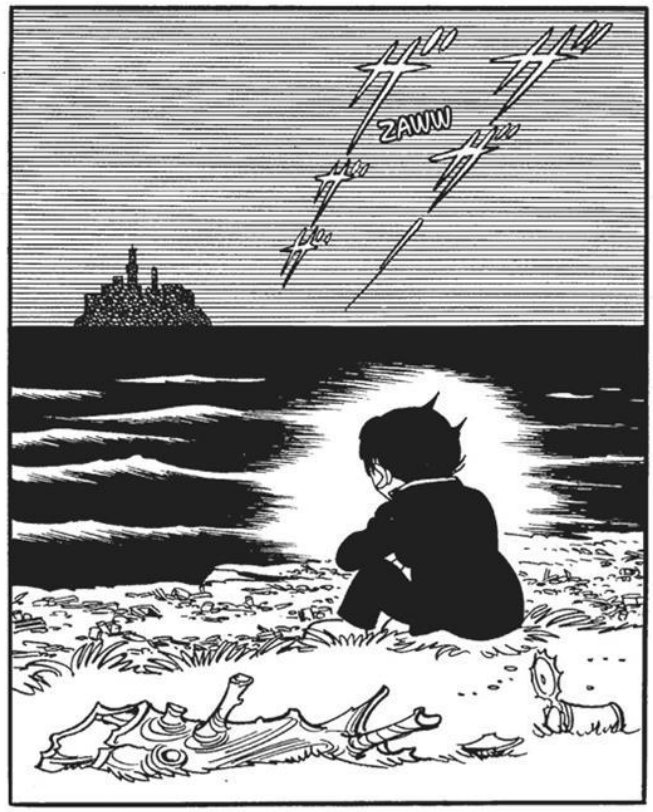

NO ONE LIVES THERE. IT WAS ABANDONED THREE YEARS AGO.


OR SEA-GULL LIVES THERE.
AND DESPITE THE NAME, NOT ONE CAT
IT'S A DEAD ISLAND.
KLAK
DAMN!
KLAK
KLAK
KLANG
POLLUTED AREA
Pollutants and poisonous substances have been detected on Cat Island and the surrounding waters.
Do not enter.
--Environmental Bureau


KLAK
DAMN IT TO HELL!

DAMN!




ZAWW

BACK AGAIN, STUPID QUACK?

SHUT UP!
WHAT DO YOU CARE?

YOU NEVER LEARN.

PLANNING TO CROSS OVER AGAIN?
LEAVE ME ALONE!

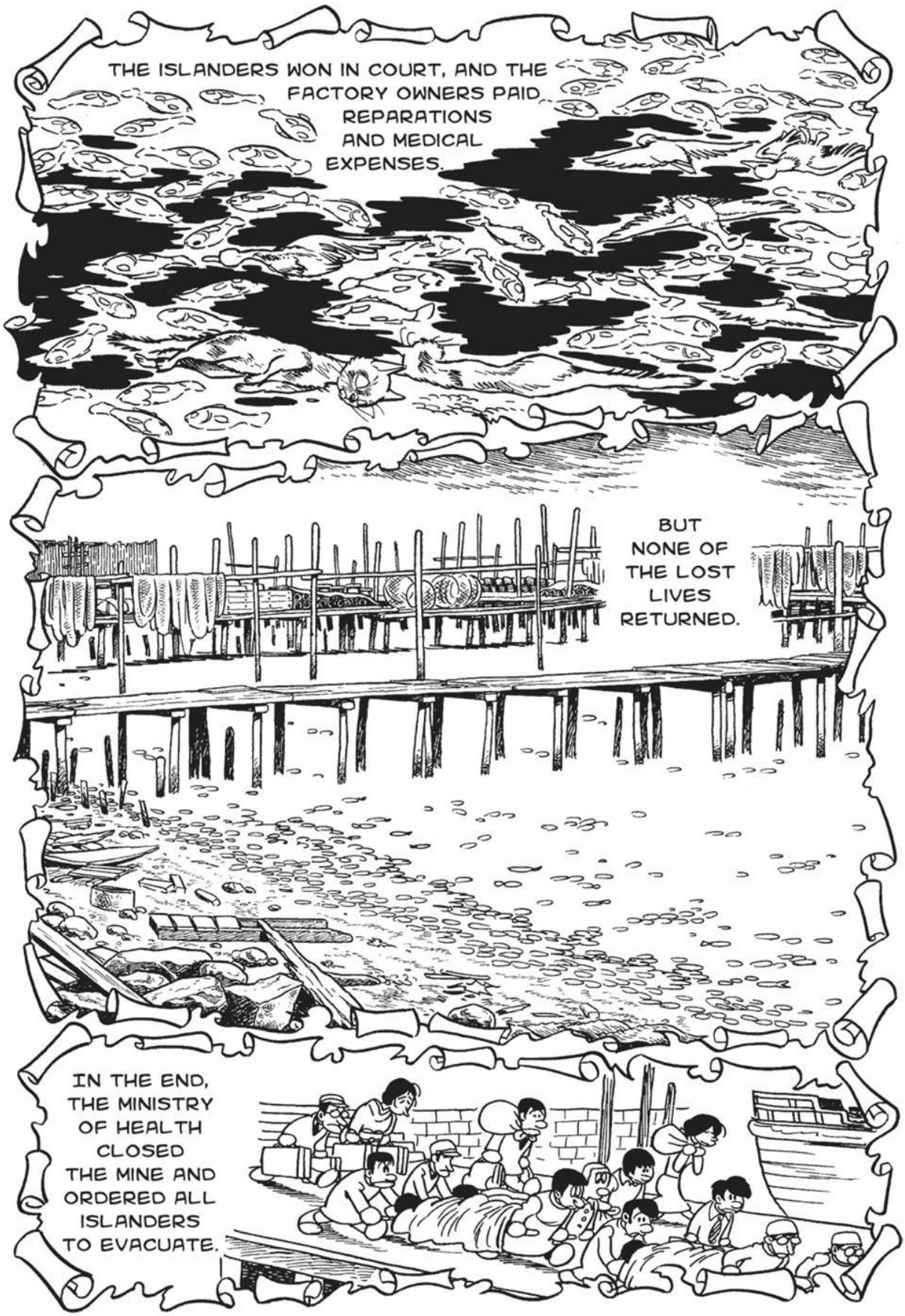
AND I AM GOING!
GOING THERE NOW IS LIKE WALKING INTO DEATH.
YOU DON'T WANT TO END UP LIKE YOUR FOLKS, DO YOU?
THUNK
WHACK
POW
KRAK
LITTLE BRAT.
I'M SICK OF FIGHTING A KID.
WHAT?!
YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN IN THE NECK.
BASTARD!

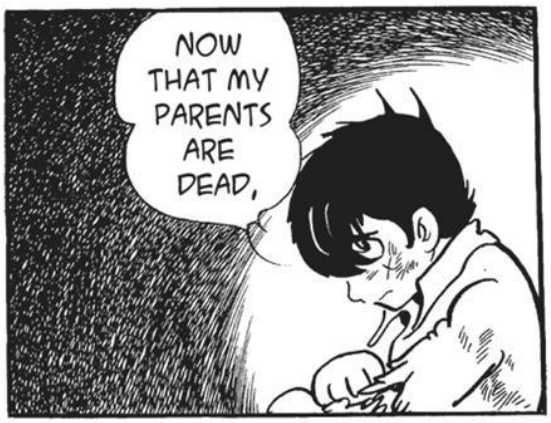
YOUR PARENTS LEFT ME IN CHARGE OF YOUR TUITION MONEY.
IF I KNEW HOW DIFFICULT YOU'D BE I'D NOT HAVE BOTHERED.
OW! IT STINGS!
TO BRING IT TO YOU UNTIL IT'S GONE.
I PROMISED
BUT I CAN'T.
I WISH I COULD.
THEN GIMME THE REST OF THE MONEY AND STAY AWAY!
I'M SHOCKED YOU DIDN'T POCKET IT AND RUN. YOU'RE TOO HONEST.
HMPH.
AS LONG AS YOU TRY TO GO BACK TO THE ISLAND, I GOTTA KEEP WATCH.

YOUR PARENTS DIED FOR THIS MONEY.
AND I MIGHT'VE STOLEN IT FROM OTHERS. BUT NOT FROM THEM!
LISTEN, KID. PEOPLE CALL ME A VICIOUS, GREEDY DOCTOR,
'BYE, HONEY!
BE CAREFUL OF WHAT YOU EAT. SOME BAD ILLNESS IS GOING AROUND.
HE LOOKS DRUNK.
TAMA'S ACTING WEIRD.

MOM! TAMA'S SICK!
PANT
PANT
PANT
I CAN'T SEE WELL... THIS IS ODD...
AH ...
TAMA JUMPED INTO THE OCEAN!
TO ALL RESIDENTS OF CAT ISLAND: DO NOT EAT THE FISH!
WAAH!
HANG IN THERE! THE DOCTOR'S COMING!
I CAN'T FEEL MY LIMBS...
SOME RESIDENTS ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF POISONING!
THE OCEAN IS POLLUTED. ALL THE SEAFOOD IS POISONED. DO NOT CONSUME.

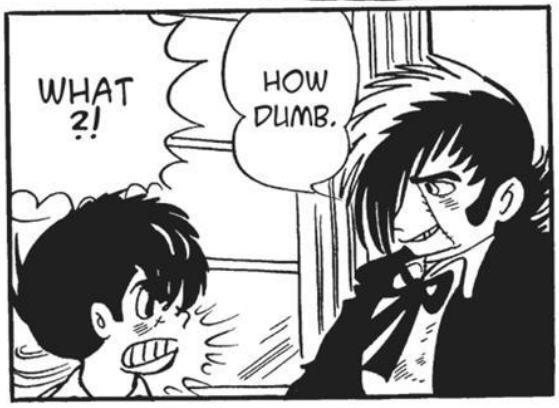
MORE RESIDENTS ARE POISONED! OFFICIALS HAVE DECLARED THIS AN E2-TYPE POLLUTION-CAUSED ILLNESS.
MOM!!
MOM!
YOU, TOO, DAD?!
POISONED RESIDENTS HAVE FILED AGAINST THE FACTORY THAT POLLUTED THE WATER.
YOUR LEGS SHRIVELED UP LIKE BRANCHES, AND DROOLING LIKE AN INFANT... YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO DESERVE THIS. WHO DID THIS TO YOU?!


THE ISLANDERS WON IN COURT, AND THE FACTORY OWNERS PAID REPARATIONS AND MEDICAL EXPENSES.
BUT NONE OF THE LOST LIVES RETURNED.
IN THE END, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH CLOSED THE MINE AND ORDERED ALL ISLANDERS TO EVACUATE.

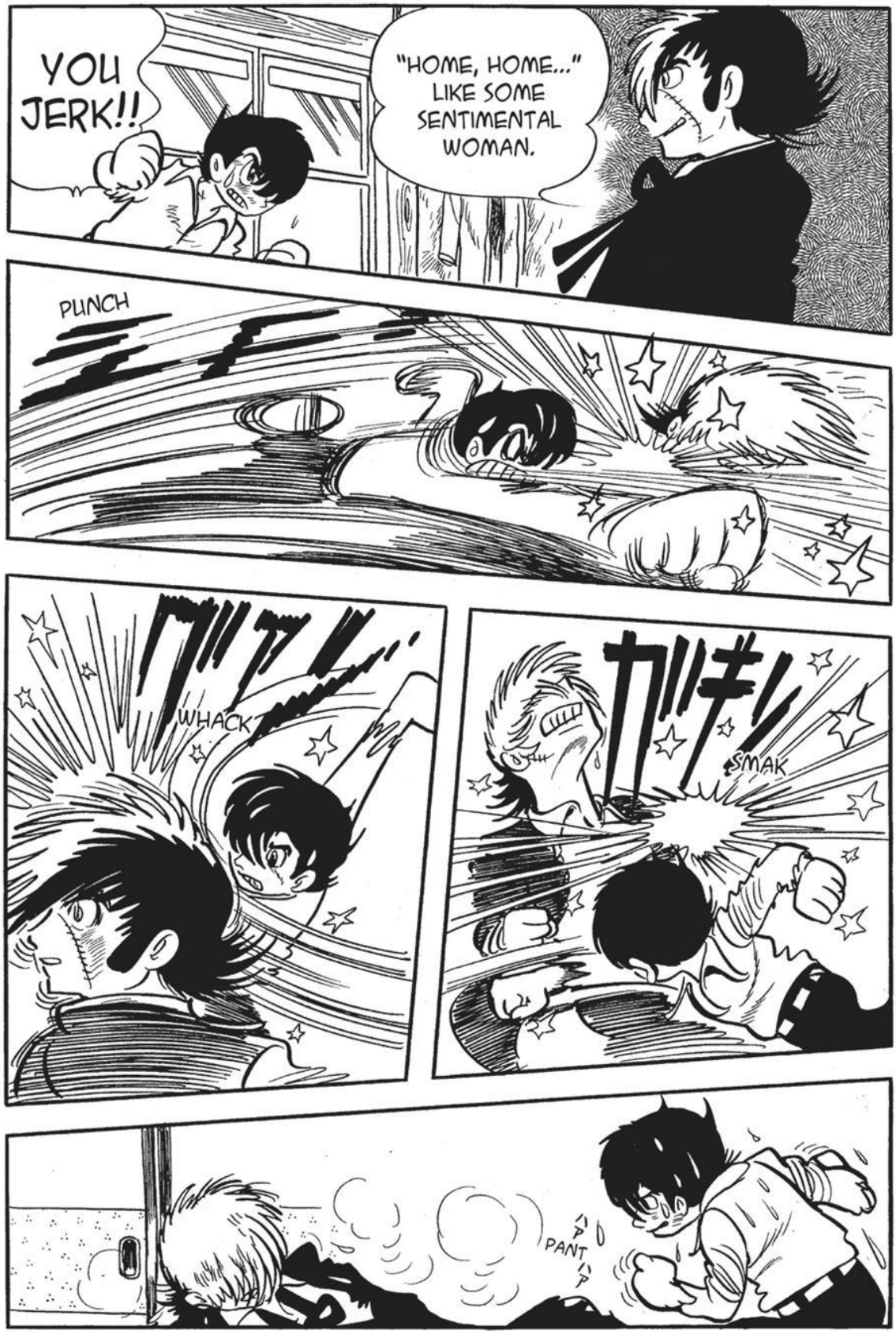

NOW THAT MY PARENTS ARE DEAD,

WHERE I'M FROM?
WHY CAN'T I GO BACK TO

I WAS BORN ON THAT ISLAND.
IT'S MY HOME. I DON'T CARE IF IT'S SMALL OR DEAD.

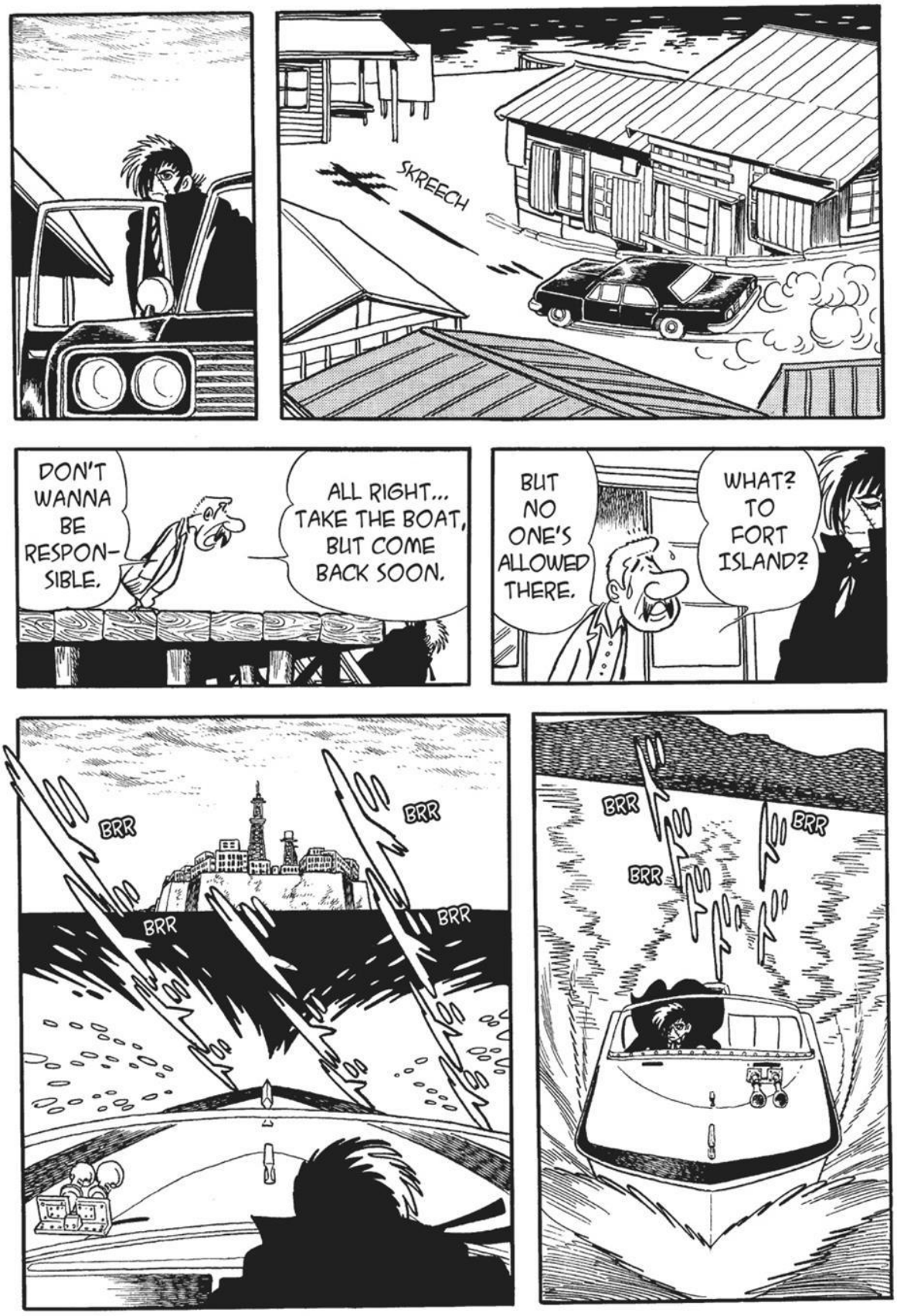

WHAT ?!
HOW DUMB.

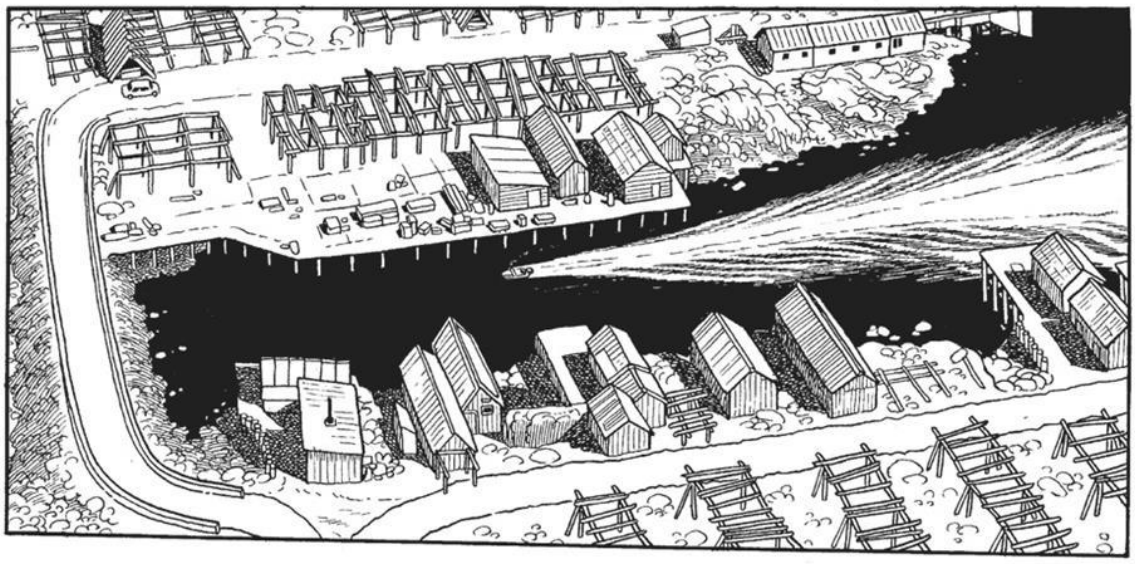
AND THEN THERE WERE NONE.
THREE YEARS PASSED...
YET DEATH STILL REIGNED.


YOU JERK!!
"HOME, HOME..." LIKE SOME SENTIMENTAL WOMAN.
PUNCH
WHACK
SMAK
PANT

DON'T THROW PUNCH AFTER USELESS PUNCH. FIGHTS ARE DECIDED WITH ONE BLOW.
WHUD
KEN
HERE'S THE TUITION FOR THIS MONTH. SEE YA, STUBBORN.
D-DOCTOR ...
VRRR

YOU HAVE THE WRONG MAN. I DON'T WORK HERE.
D-DOCTOR... PLEASE GIVE THE REPARATIONS I WON TO M-MY SON WHEN I DIE...
DOCTOR... MY WIFE AND I ARE GONERS... I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY SON... PLEASE BUDGET THAT MONEY FOR HIS TUITION...
WRONG DOCTOR!
YOU HEAR ME?
DR. BLACK JACK! PLEASE PICK UP THE CAT ISLAND PATIENT'S MONEY.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME ?
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GUY, OKAY?
...
HE PASSED AWAY. YOU ARE THE DESIGNATED GUARANTOR OF THE FUNDS.
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM!

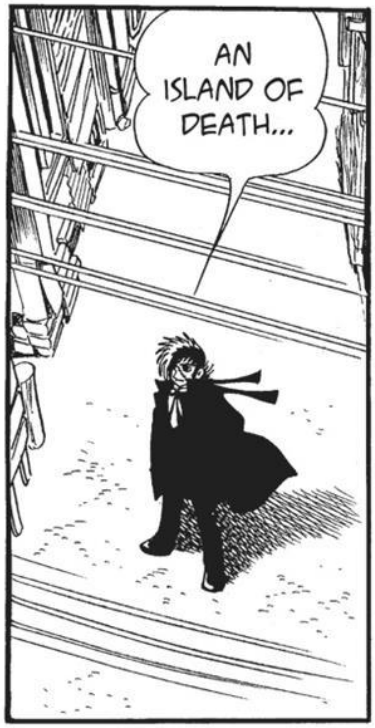

SKREECH
DON'T WANNA BE RESPON-SIBLE.
ALL RIGHT... TAKE THE BOAT, BUT COME BACK SOON.
BUT NO ONE'S ALLOWED THERE.
WHAT? TO FORT ISLAND?
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR

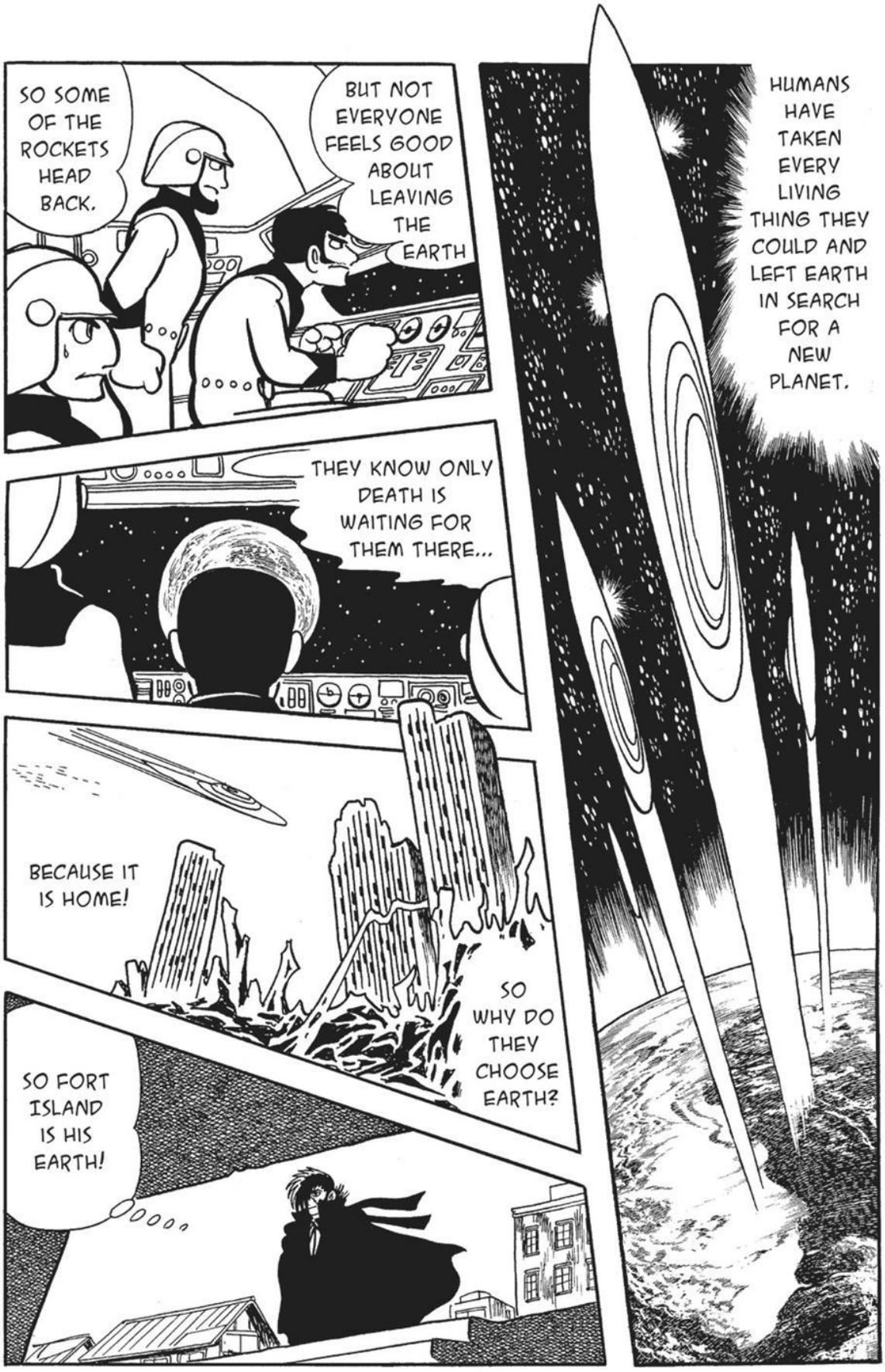


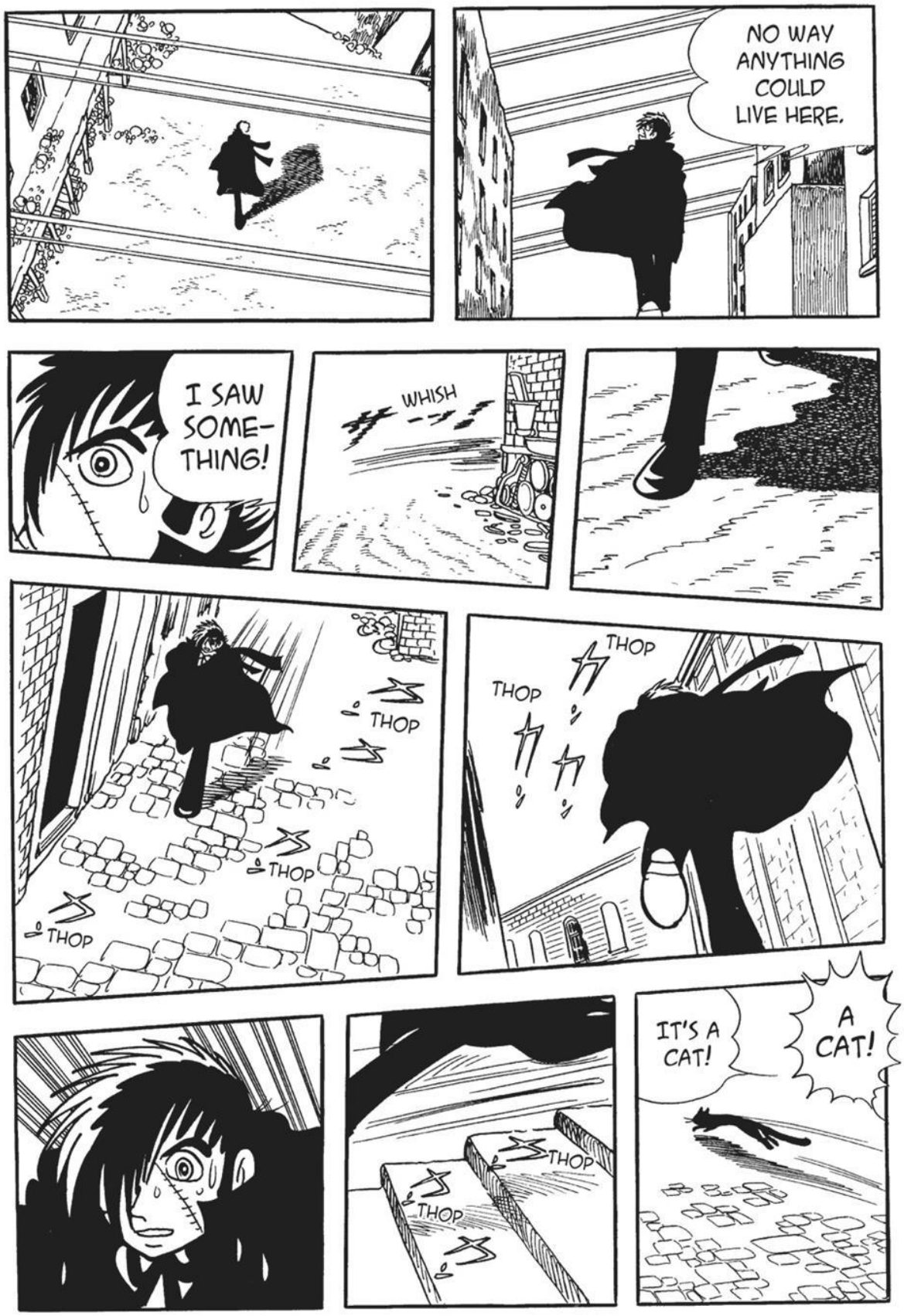
How or when Black Jack managed to change into a spare set of clothes after they got torn up by the Kid is a mystery that defies logic

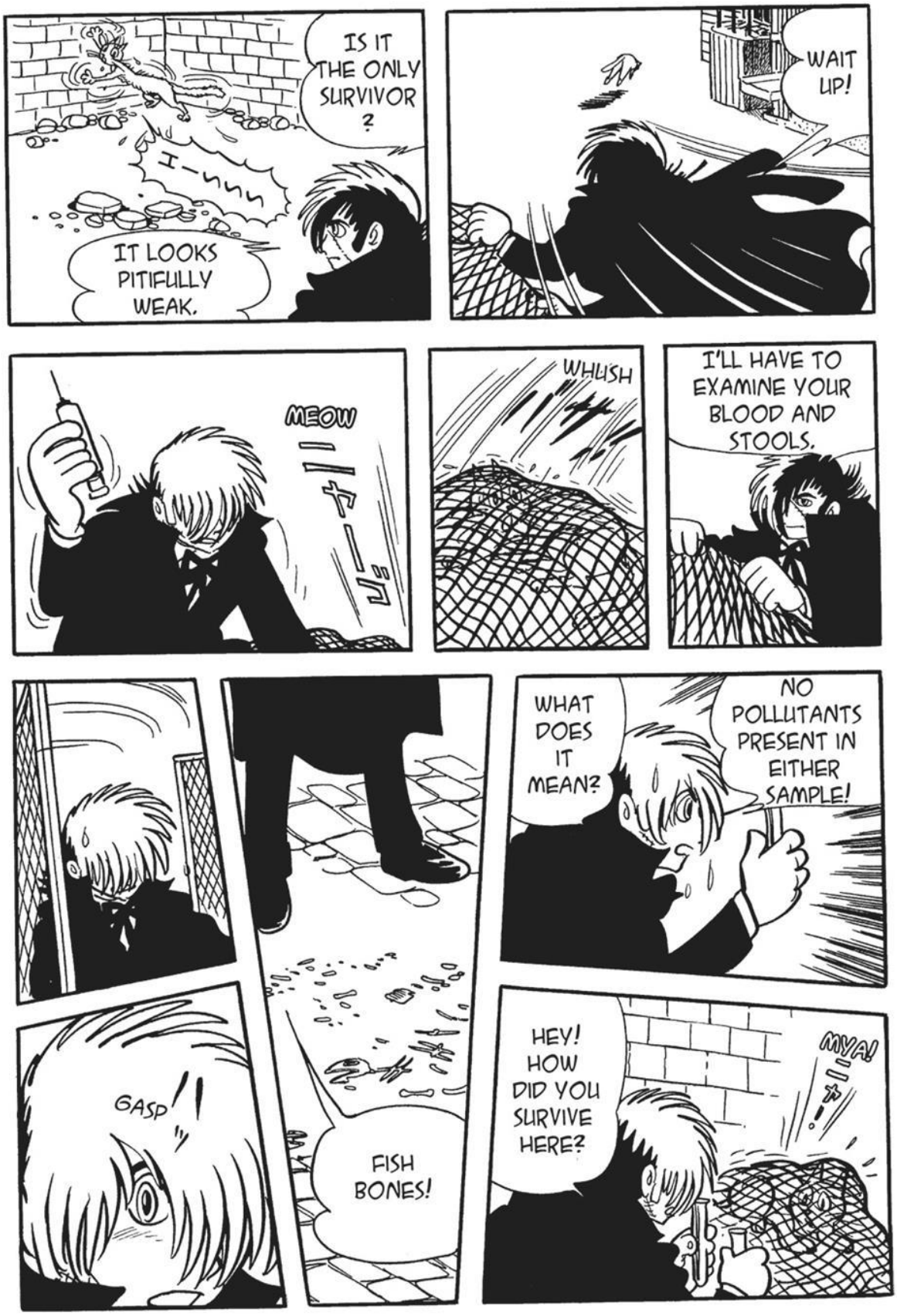
IN THE FUTURE, THE EARTH'S HABITAT HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY POLLUTION.

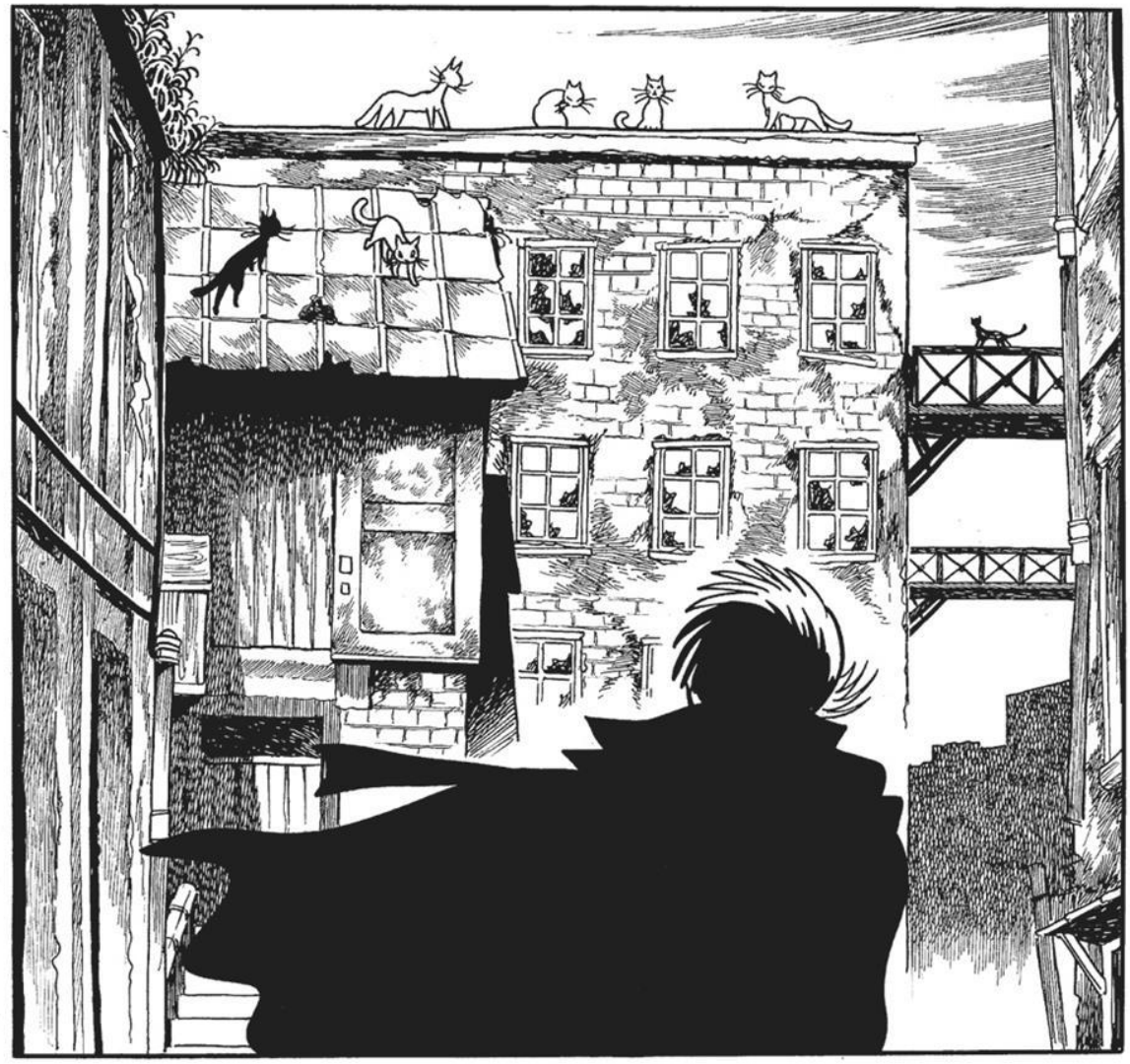
I READ A SCI-FI NOVEL LIKE THIS ONCE ...


AN ISLAND OF DEATH...


SO SOME OF THE ROCKETS HEAD BACK.
BUT NOT EVERYONE FEELS GOOD ABOUT LEAVING THE EARTH
HUMANS HAVE TAKEN EVERY LIVING THING THEY COULD AND LEFT EARTH IN SEARCH FOR A NEW PLANET.
THEY KNOW ONLY DEATH IS WAITING FOR THEM THERE...
BECAUSE IT IS HOME!
SO WHY DO THEY CHOOSE EARTH?
SO FORT ISLAND IS HIS EARTH!


NO WAY ANYTHING COULD LIVE HERE.
I SAW SOME-THING!
WHISH
THOP
THOP
THOP
THOP
THOP
THOP
THOP
IT'S A CAT!
A CAT!


IS IT THE ONLY SURVIVOR ?
エーننن
IT LOOKS PITIFULLY WEAK.
WAIT UP!
MEOW
ニャーン
WHUSH
I'LL HAVE TO EXAMINE YOUR BLOOD AND STOOLS.
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
NO POLLUTANTS PRESENT IN EITHER SAMPLE!
GASP
FISH BONES!
HEY! HOW DID YOU SURVIVE HERE?
MYA!
ニャー!

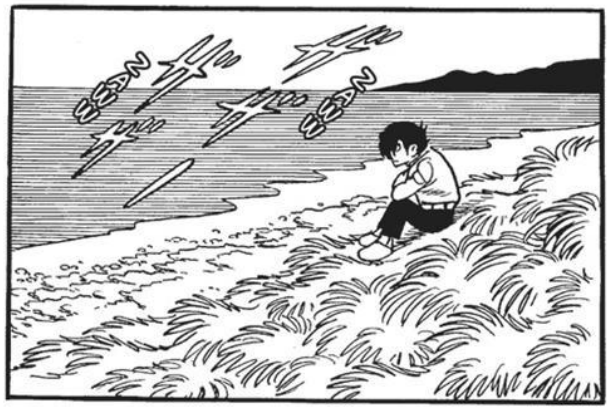


THE CURRENTS SWEPT IT ALL AWAY IN THREE YEARS! HA HA HA!

MUST BE LONG GONE!
I SEE, THE POLLU-TION

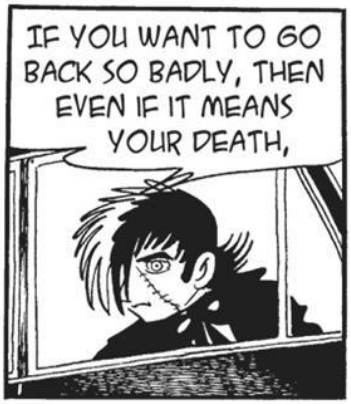
SO MANY STRAY CATS ...

YOU AGAIN ?
BUTT OFF!



BE A MAN
AND SURVIVE WHATEVER IT TAKES.

I WON'T STOP YOU.
BUT IF YOU GO,

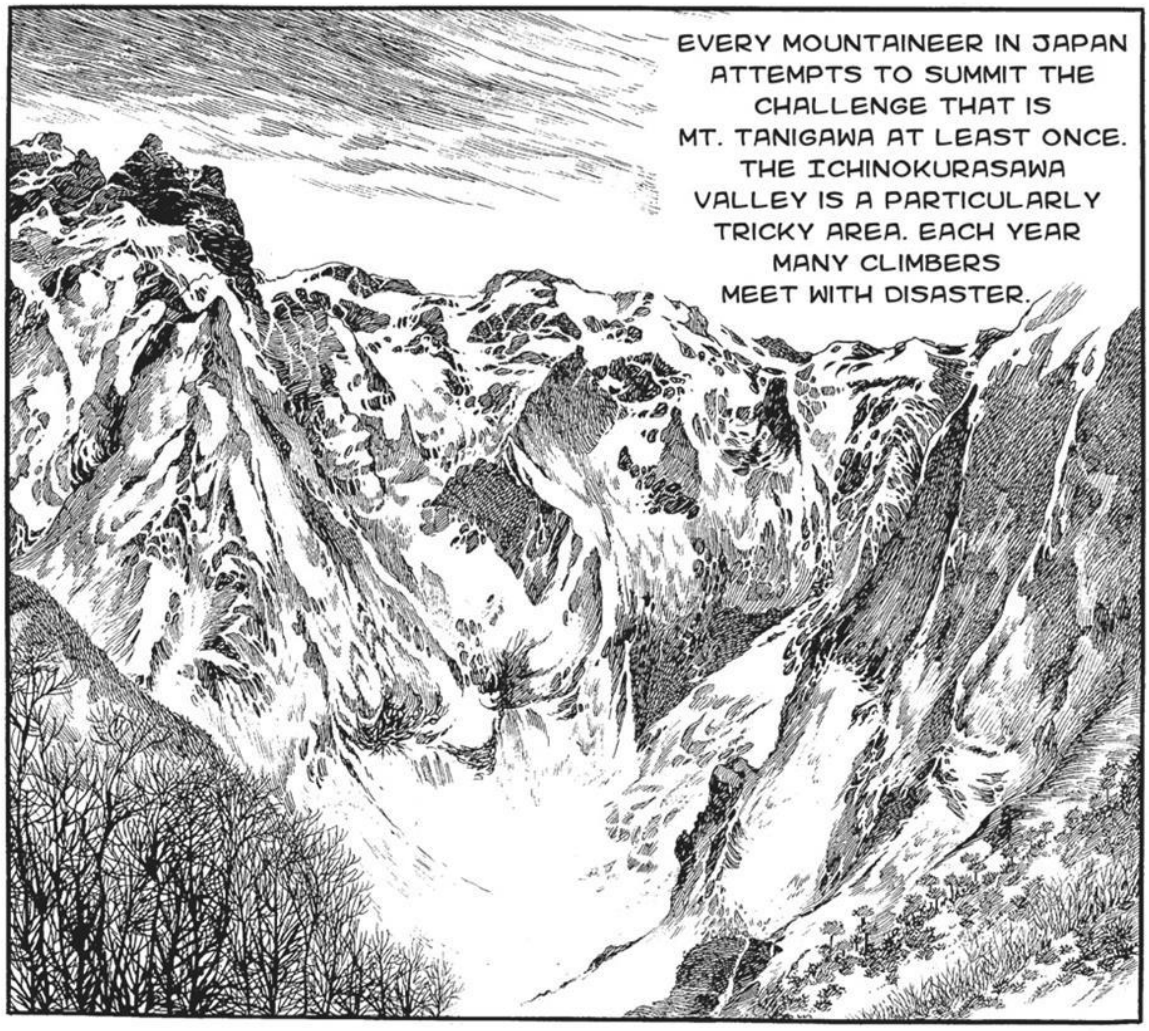

IF YOU WANT TO GO BACK SO BADLY, THEN EVEN IF IT MEANS YOUR DEATH,

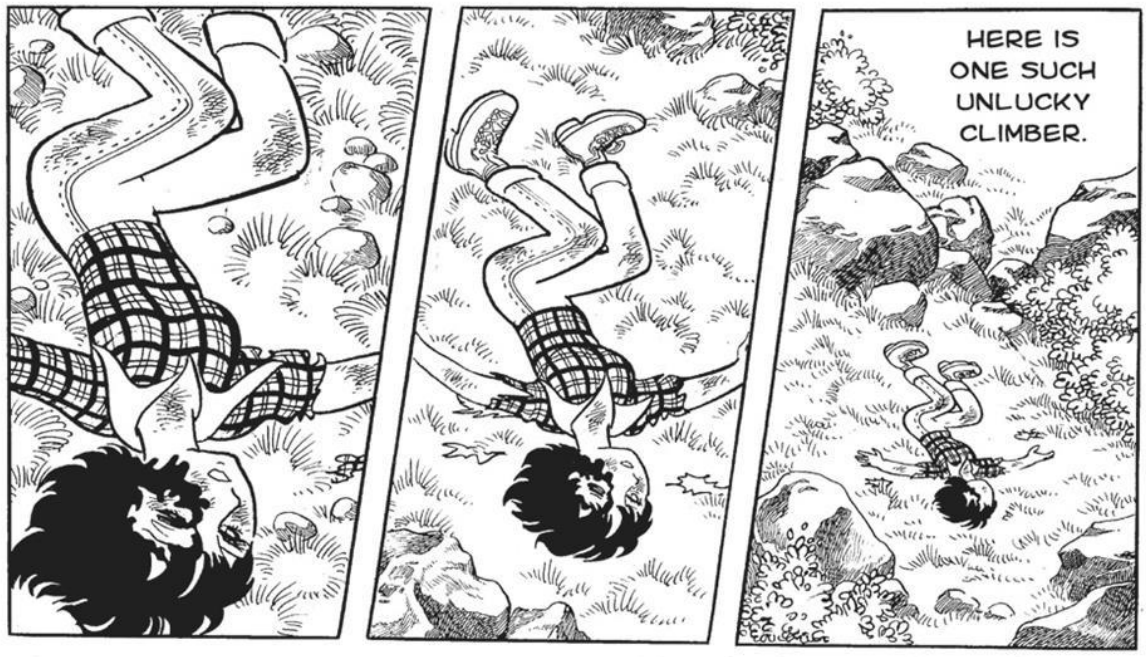
VROOM

HERE'S THE REST OF THE MONEY.

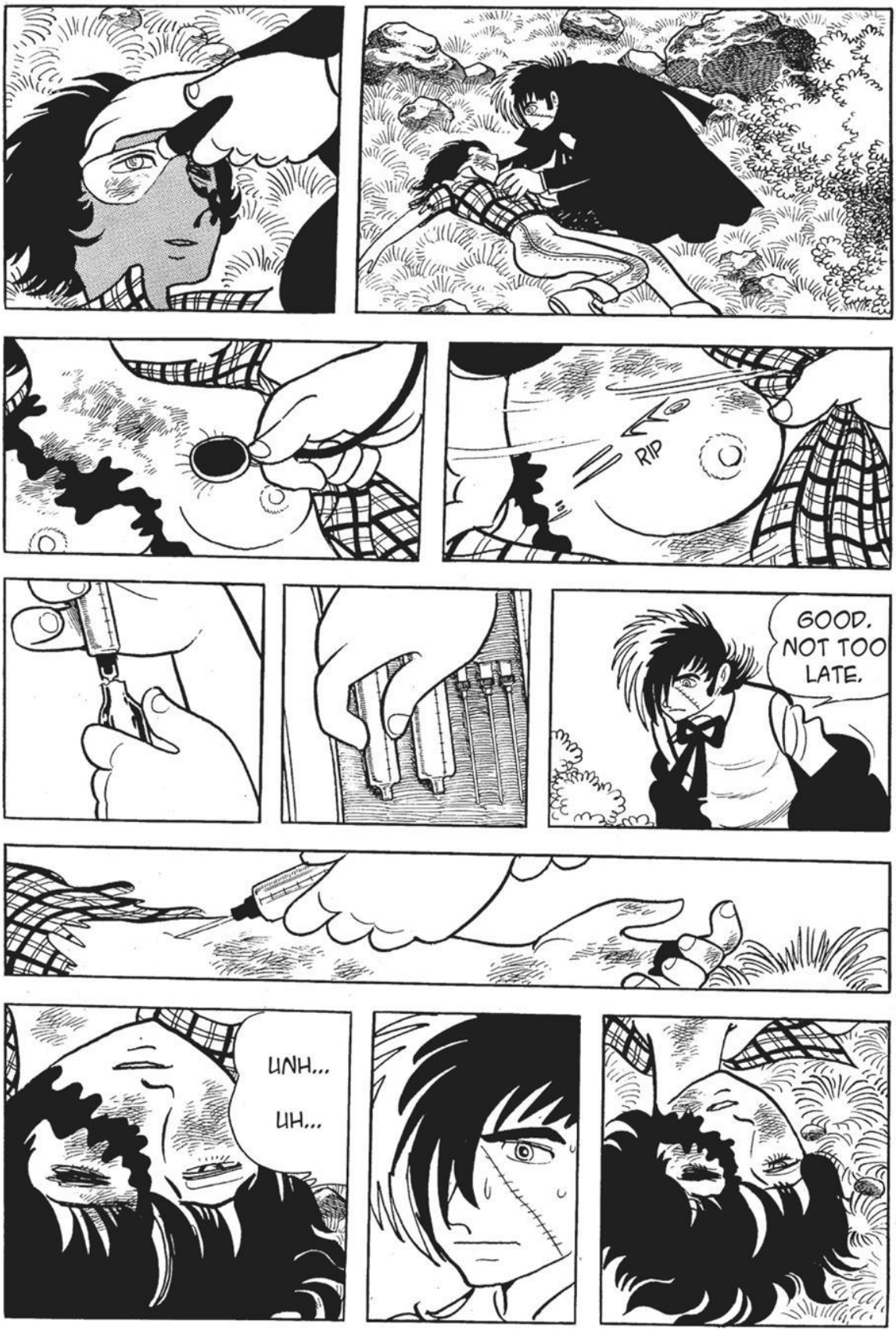
"HOME." HOW STUPID !

FOG


EVERY MOUNTAINEER IN JAPAN ATTEMPTS TO SUMMIT THE CHALLENGE THAT IS MT. TANIGAWA AT LEAST ONCE. THE ICHINOKURASAWA VALLEY IS A PARTICULARLY TRICKY AREA. EACH YEAR MANY CLIMBERS MEET WITH DISASTER.


HERE IS ONE SUCH UNLUCKY CLIMBER.

MUST BE NEAR ...
THERE !

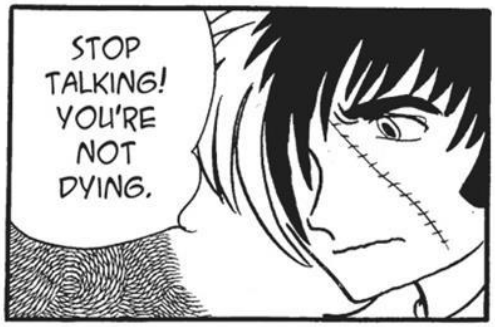

RIP
GOOD. NOT TOO LATE.
UNH...
UH...

HEH... YOU'RE THAT DOCTOR...

YOU'RE TOO LATE... YOU LOSE.
YOU FOLLOWED ME AGAIN? STUPID MAN...

I'LL DIE AND YOU'LL GO BACK TO DAD EMPTY-HANDED.

SORRY, DAD WON'T BE PAYING OUT.
NO, YOU CAN'T SAVE ME THIS TIME.


STOP TALKING! YOU'RE NOT DYING.

WITHIN 24 HOURS, YOU'LL BE FINE, MISS.
IF I GIVE YOU FIRST AID HERE AND CARRY YOU BACK TO THE BASE

I SAID STOP TALKING !

THOUGH THE IR-REGULAR PULSE DOES WORRY ME.
COMPOUND FRACTURES IN BOTH LEGS AND BRUISES, BUT THAT'S ALL. YOU GOT LUCKY.

DO IT.
TAKING THESE OFF.
WE NEED TO X-RAY YOUR HEAD TO SEE WHY.

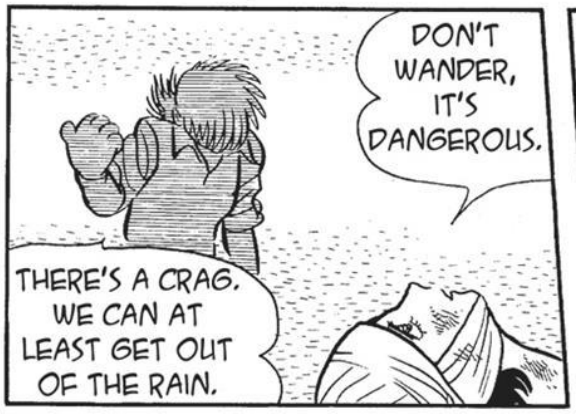
AND I'LL BE HEALED FOR NOW ...
IF YOU HAVE A HEMATOMA I'LL HAVE TO OPERATE.

YOU EVEN FOLLOWED ME HERE. FUNNY.
YOU PRETEND TO BE CURING ME TO GET MONEY FROM DAD, YOU CLOWN.
BE QUIET!

BUT YOU'LL NEVER CURE WHAT I'VE HAD SINCE BIRTH!
IT ONLY GETS WORSE.

A MILKY, DENSE FOG SUDDENLY FILLED THE VALLEY.
IT WAS LIKE A CURTAIN OF DEATH.
HM?!
UH-OH ...
A FOG'S SETTING IN ...
DAMN!
PEEP
PEEEP
WOOO
THIS IS USELESS!
DAMNED FOG IS CHARGED!

PLUS WE'LL GET SOAKED OUT HERE.
WE'RE STUCK!
WE NEED TO HOLE UP UNTIL IT CLEARS.

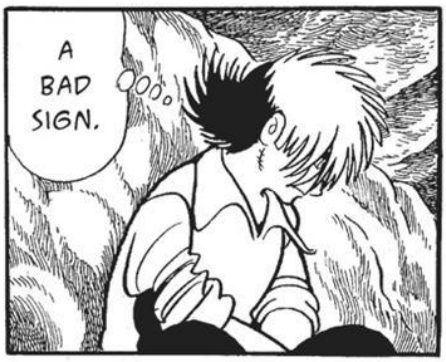

DON'T WANDER, IT'S DANGEROUS.
THERE'S A CRAG. WE CAN AT LEAST GET OUT OF THE RAIN.

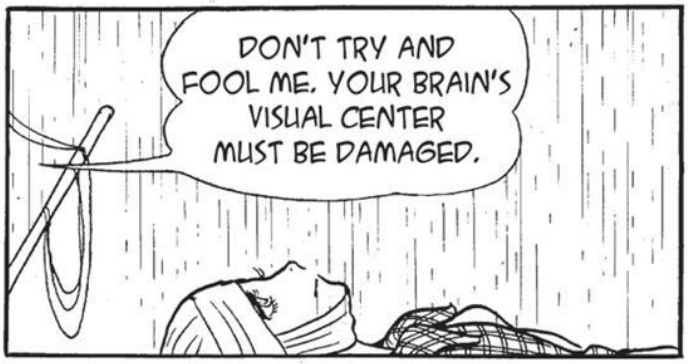
WHERE YOU GOING?

THE OTHER CLIMBERS MUST'VE RUSHED BACK TO THE BASE OR TO CABINS.
FSHI
FSHI

SEEMS LIKE IT WAITED TO POUR UNTIL WE WERE UNDER HERE.

30 MILLION... IT CAN COST THAT MUCH TO GET YOU INTO HIGH SCHOOL THESE DAYS.
IT'S POCKET CHANGE TO HIM, THOUGH.
HOW MUCH DID YOU ASK MY DAD FOR?
30 MIL.
LEFT AFTER A MONTH, AND HUNG OUT WITH DROP-OUTS AND PUNKS...
BUT THEN I GOT SICK,
HIGH SCHOOL ...
I LOOKED FORWARD TO IT...
HEY... ARE YOU GOING BLIND?
NO WAY.
YES ...
THE OTHERS WENT TO JUVIE. BEING ILL, I GOT OFF WITH PROBATION.
WE EVEN PLAYED AT ROBBING A BANK.
THEY HOSPITALIZED ME... BUT I RAN!
DO PARENTS STILL LOVE CHILDREN LIKE ME?
ZHAA


A BAD SIGN.

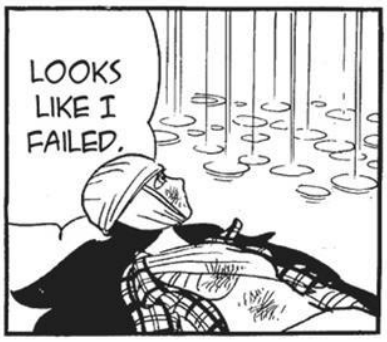

DON'T TRY AND FOOL ME. YOUR BRAIN'S VISUAL CENTER MUST BE DAMAGED.

YOUR CASE IS MILD. YOU CAN GET BETTER IF YOU WANT TO.
WHEN I WAS 12, I TORE A GIRL'S HAIR OUT. I CAN DO CRUEL THINGS WITHOUT BLINKING.

THEY SAY I HAVE "CATATONIA."
I KNOW. IT'S A TYPE OF SCHIZO-PHRENIA.

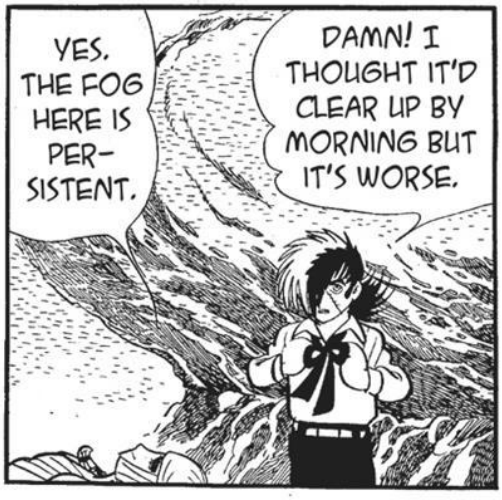
SO YOU CAME HERE TO DIE?

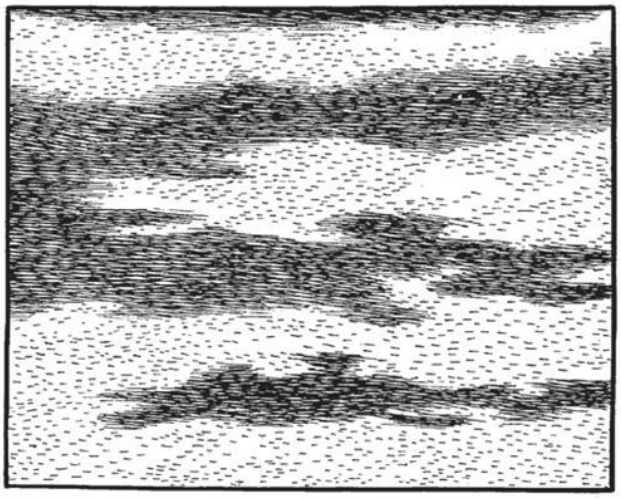
THERE'S NOTHING IN LIFE FOR ME.
MILD? HA!
DEATH WILL BE A RELIEF.


LOOKS LIKE I FAILED.

...

I COULD DIE ALONE HERE.
I WANTED TO BE ALONE.


YES. THE FOG HERE IS PER-SISTENT.
DAMN! I THOUGHT IT'D CLEAR UP BY MORNING BUT IT'S WORSE.



HMM, NO GOOD ...
I CAN'T TELL WHICH WAY THE BASE IS.

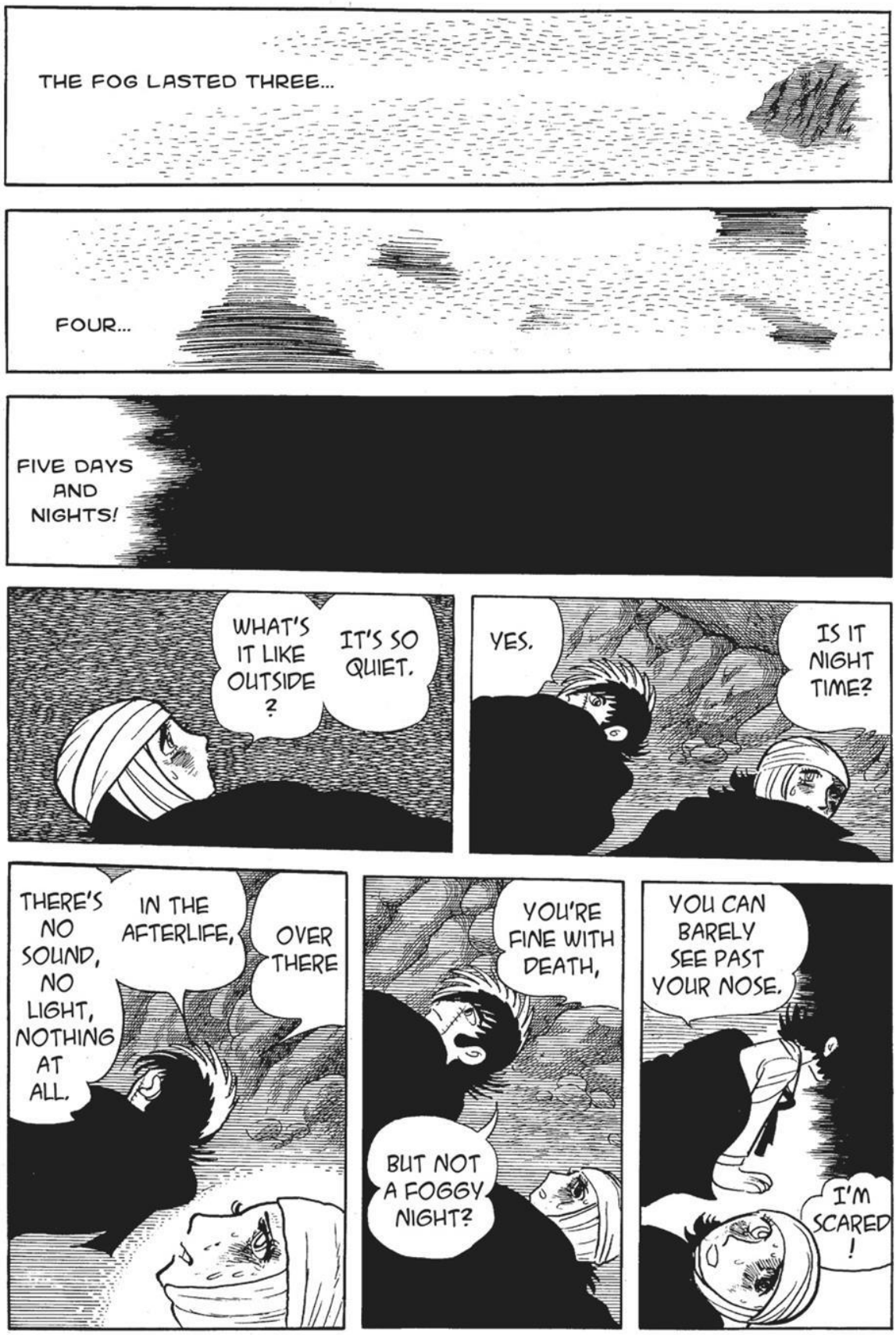
GO AHEAD, LEAVE! I WON'T STOP YOU.

I'LL GO.
I CAN'T WAIT FOR HELP.

I'LL GO GET HELP!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME BACK.
YOU REALLY WANT THAT MONEY, EH?
YOU'RE TENA-CIOUS.
SHUT UP!!
WE'LL NEED TO LAST IT OUT HERE.
THIS WON'T DO.

YOU HAVE TO EAT TO LAST OUT THIS FOG.
EW! NO THANKS!
WEEDS BOILED IN GLUCOSE.
WHAT'S THIS ?
EAT.
GULP
STOP!!
EAT IT!!
EAT.
IF I WANTED TO PLAY WITH YOU, I'D BE MORE LIKE THE KID COP.
I HATE ELE-PHANTS!
DOESN'T MEAN I'M YOUR PLAY-THING!
JUST BECAUSE I CAN'T MOVE MY LIMBS


THE FOG LASTED THREE...
FOUR...
FIVE DAYS AND NIGHTS!
WHAT'S IT LIKE OUTSIDE ?
IT'S SO QUIET.
YES.
IS IT NIGHT TIME?
THERE'S NO SOUND, NO LIGHT, NOTHING AT ALL.
IN THE AFTERLIFE,
OVER THERE
YOU'RE FINE WITH DEATH,
BUT NOT A FOGGY NIGHT?
YOU CAN BARELY SEE PAST YOUR NOSE.
I'M SCARED !

NO...
NO.

YES WAY, MISS! IT'S FAR CREEPIER AND SADDER THAN THIS PLACE.

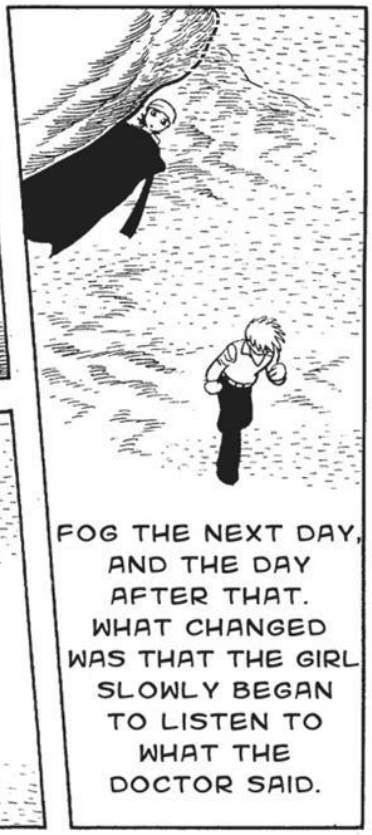
NO WAY!

HEY...

HOW ODD OF YOU TO WANT TO GO TO SUCH A PLACE.

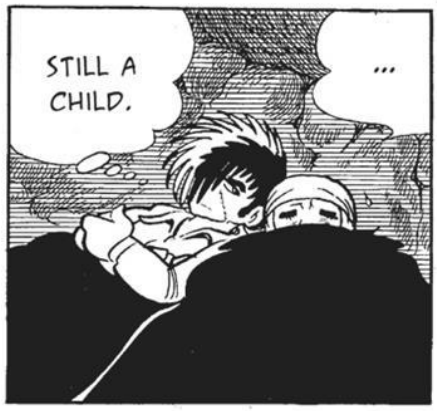
AND HERE YOU'VE GOT ME AT LEAST. YOU'D BE ALONE ON THE OTHER SIDE.

DOCTOR! DOCTOR!

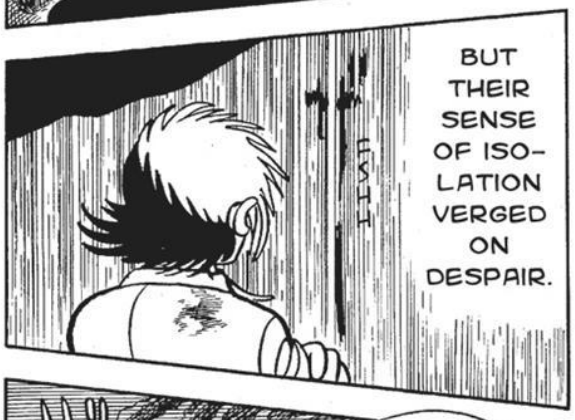

FOG THE NEXT DAY, AND THE DAY AFTER THAT. WHAT CHANGED WAS THAT THE GIRL SLOWLY BEGAN TO LISTEN TO WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID.

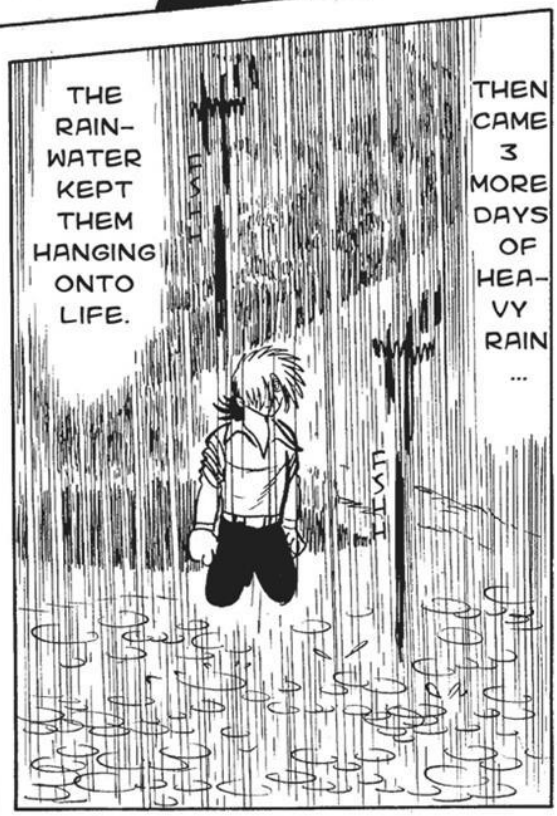
COULD YOU COME A LITTLE CLOSER?

WHAT'S WRONG ?!


STILL A CHILD.
...

JUST... DON'T GO TOO FAR AWAY.
NOTHING...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?


BUT THEIR SENSE OF ISO-LATION VERGED ON DESPAIR.
FISH


THE RAIN-WATER KEPT THEM HANGING ONTO LIFE.
THEN CAME 3 MORE DAYS OF HEA-VY RAIN ...
FISH
FISH

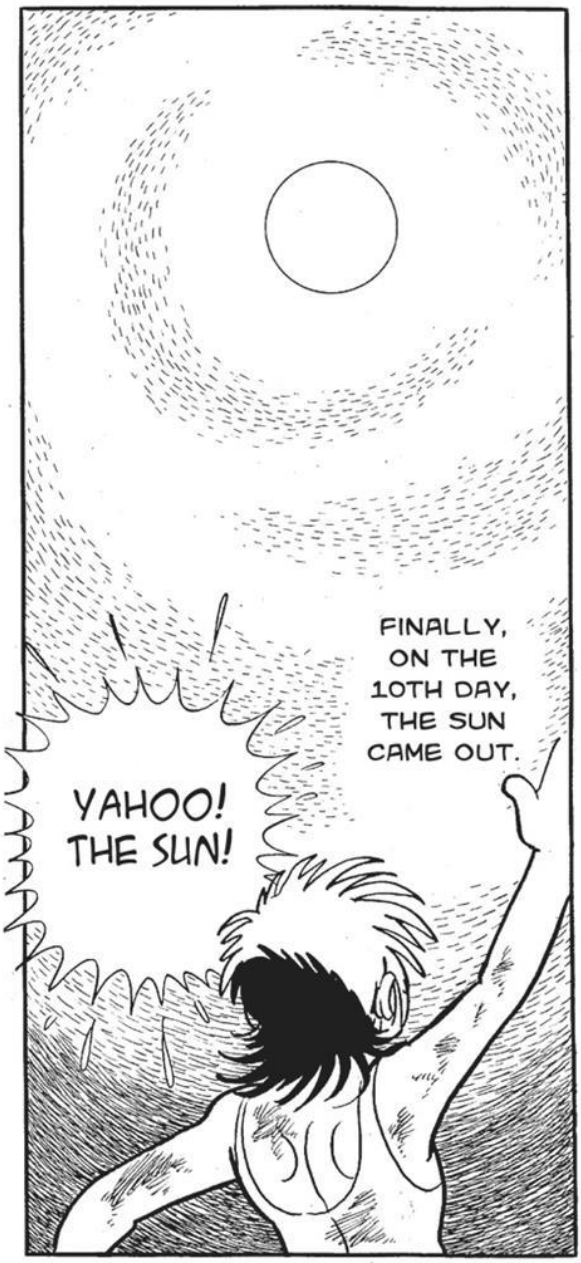
...
FISH
FISH
FISH

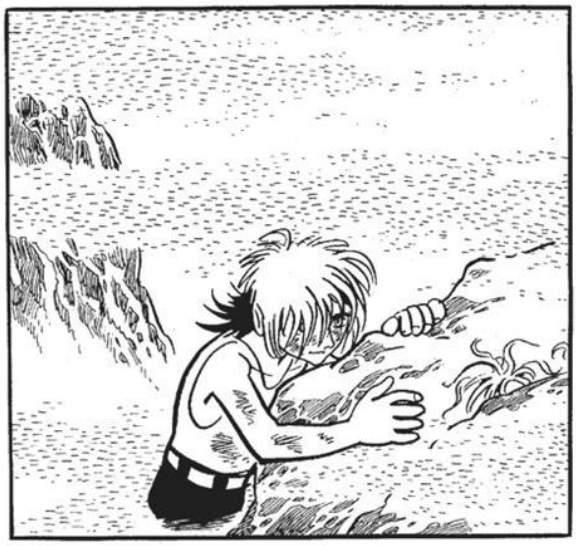
WILL YOU FIND ONE AND SPEND IT ON THE WEDDING?
I DO NOT HAVE A WIFE!

ARE YOU GONNA BUILD A HOUSE AND ENJOY LIFE?
DO YOU HAVE A WIFE ?

WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO SPEND THE 30 MILLION ON?
FISH

THAT'S THE FEE I ASKED FOR,
YOU SAID YOU'D GET IT IF YOU SAVED ME.
BUT YOUR PARENTS REFUSED, MISS.
BUT THE THIRTY MILLION...
I WON'T BE GETTING ANY MONEY!
THEY SAID YOU WEREN'T WORTH IT.
WHY?!
...
...
THEY SAID THAT? REALLY ?
BUT I WANTED TO SAVE YOU AS SOON AS THEY REFUSED TO PAY.
I WONDER WHY. I'M NOT SURE MYSELF.
LOOKING AFTER ME IF YOU WON'T GET PAID?
WHY ARE YOU

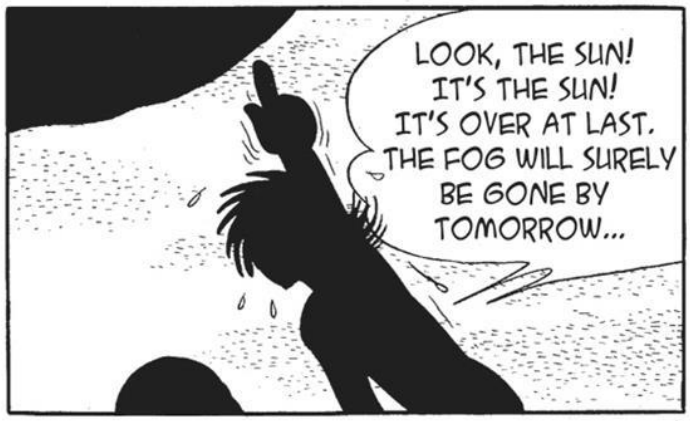

FINALLY, ON THE 10TH DAY, THE SUN CAME OUT.
YAHOO! THE SUN!



THIS IS THE LAST.
WE'VE EATEN ALL THE WEEDS I COULD FIND AROUND HERE.

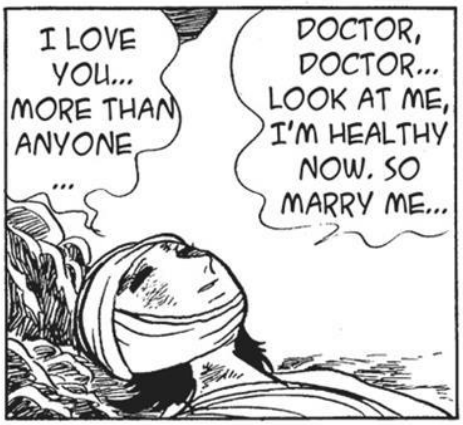
EAT! KEEP YOUR STRENGTH UP!
YOU HAVE IT, DOCTOR.
I DON'T NEED IT...

THEN HELP WILL COME. YOU'VE OUTLASTED THE FOG, MISS!


LOOK, THE SUN! IT'S THE SUN! IT'S OVER AT LAST. THE FOG WILL SURELY BE GONE BY TOMORROW...

YOU'LL GET A FRESH START, MISS!
YOU SAID IT AGAIN.
OOPS! BAD HABIT.
I'M GOING TO OPERATE ON YOU IN TOWN.
FINE, MIE!
IT'S MIE.
STOP CALLING ME THAT.
THAT NIGHT SHE HAD TERRIBLE CONVULSIONS.
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
ARGH! UNH!
IT WAS OBVIOUS SHE HAD A CEREBRAL HEMATOMA.
AND DIDN'T OPEN HER EYES AGAIN.
SHE SLIPPED INTO A COMA
SIGH

THE SKY! BLUE SKIES!
THE FOG IS GONE !!
LIVE!!
MIE, OPEN YOUR EYES. LAUGH FOR ME. CHEER UP! LIVE!
...NO USE.

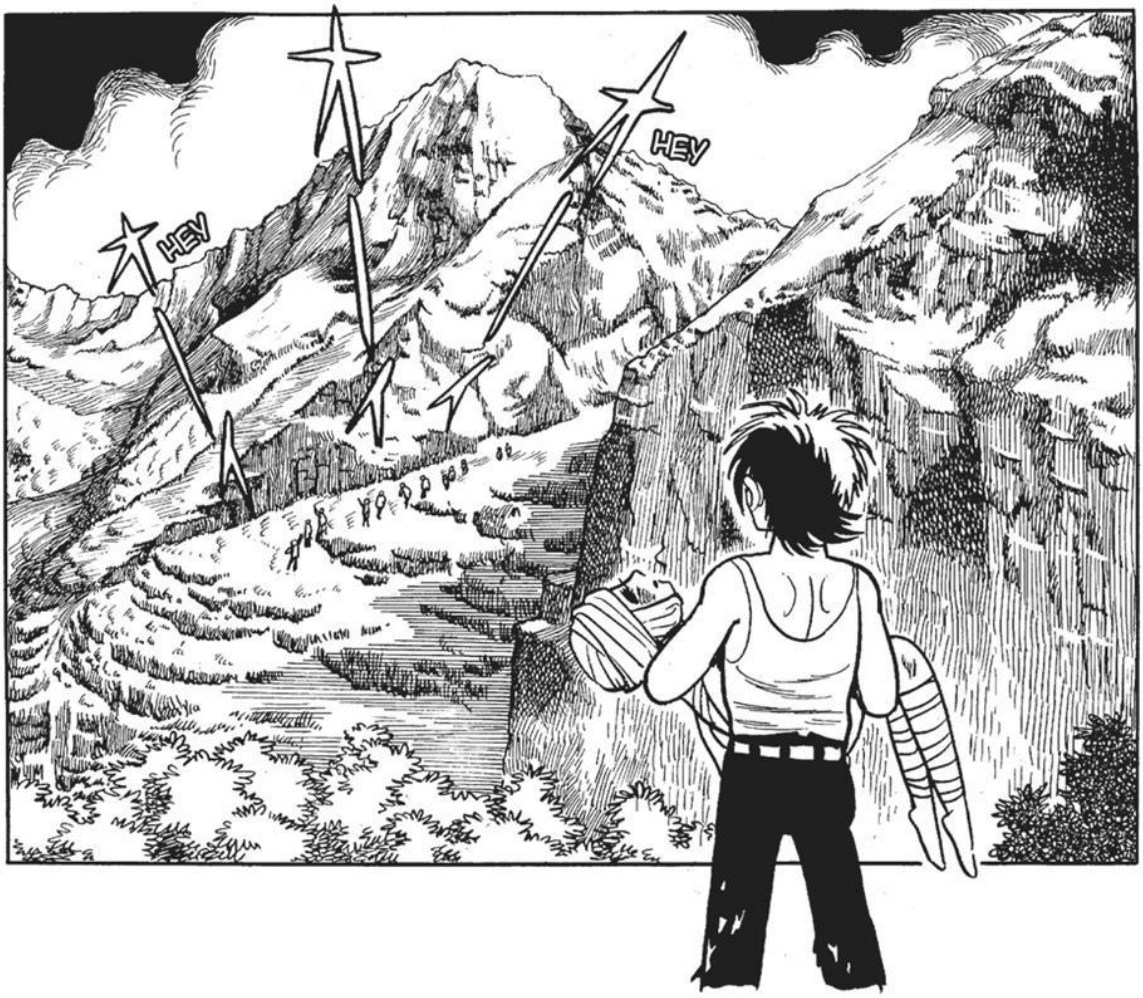

I LOVE YOU... MORE THAN ANYONE ...
DOCTOR, DOCTOR... LOOK AT ME, I'M HEALTHY NOW. SO MARRY ME...

SHE SPEAKS.
...
DE-LIRIUM ...

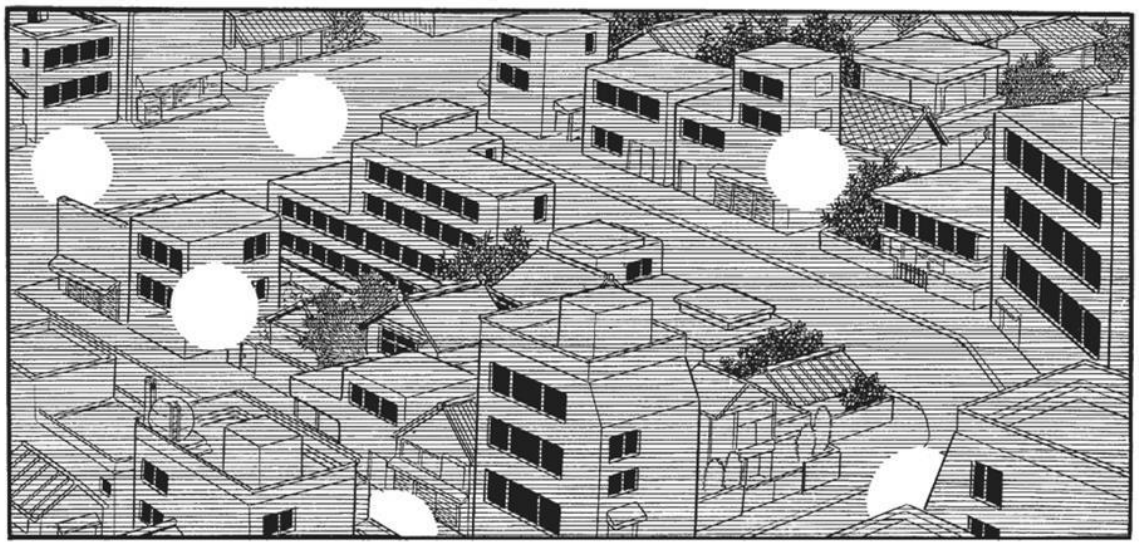
LOOK, MIE! HELP.
HEAR THAT? HELP IS HERE!

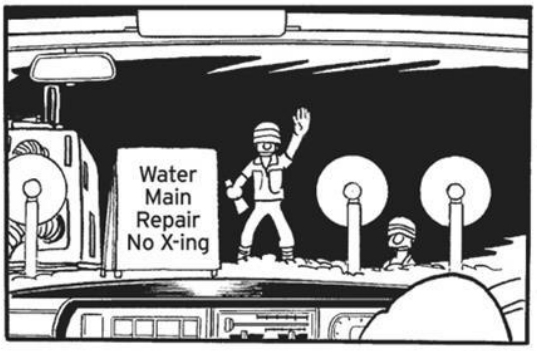
...

SLUMP

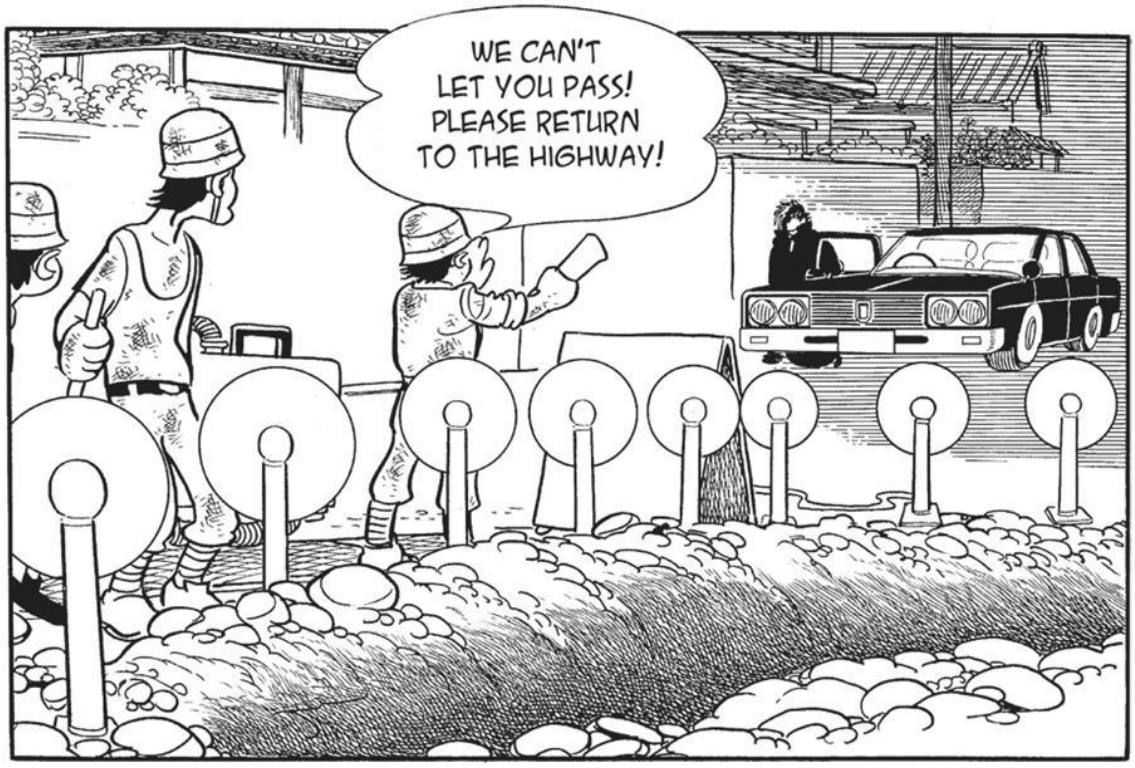

HEY
HEY

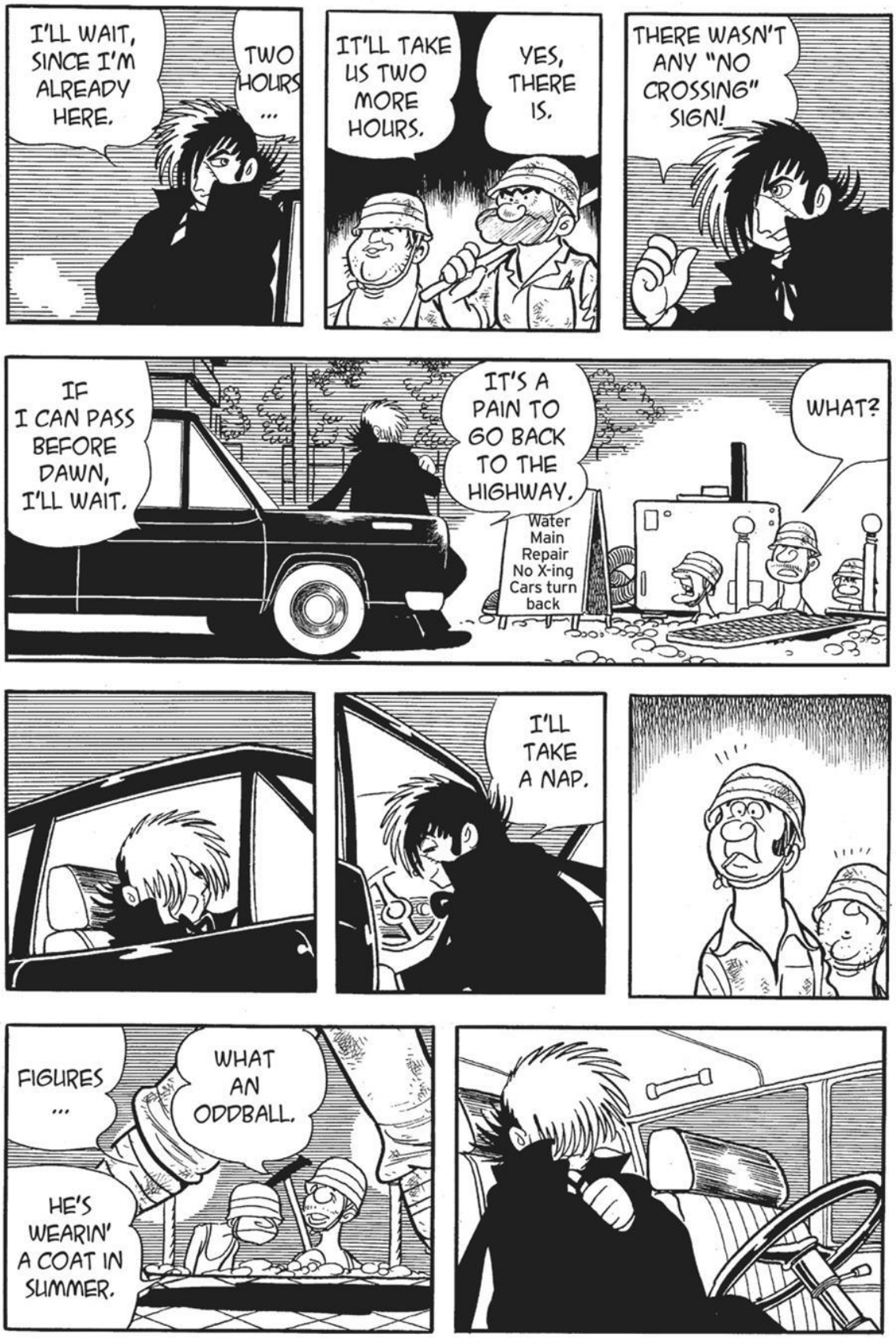
A HAPPENING AT DAWN

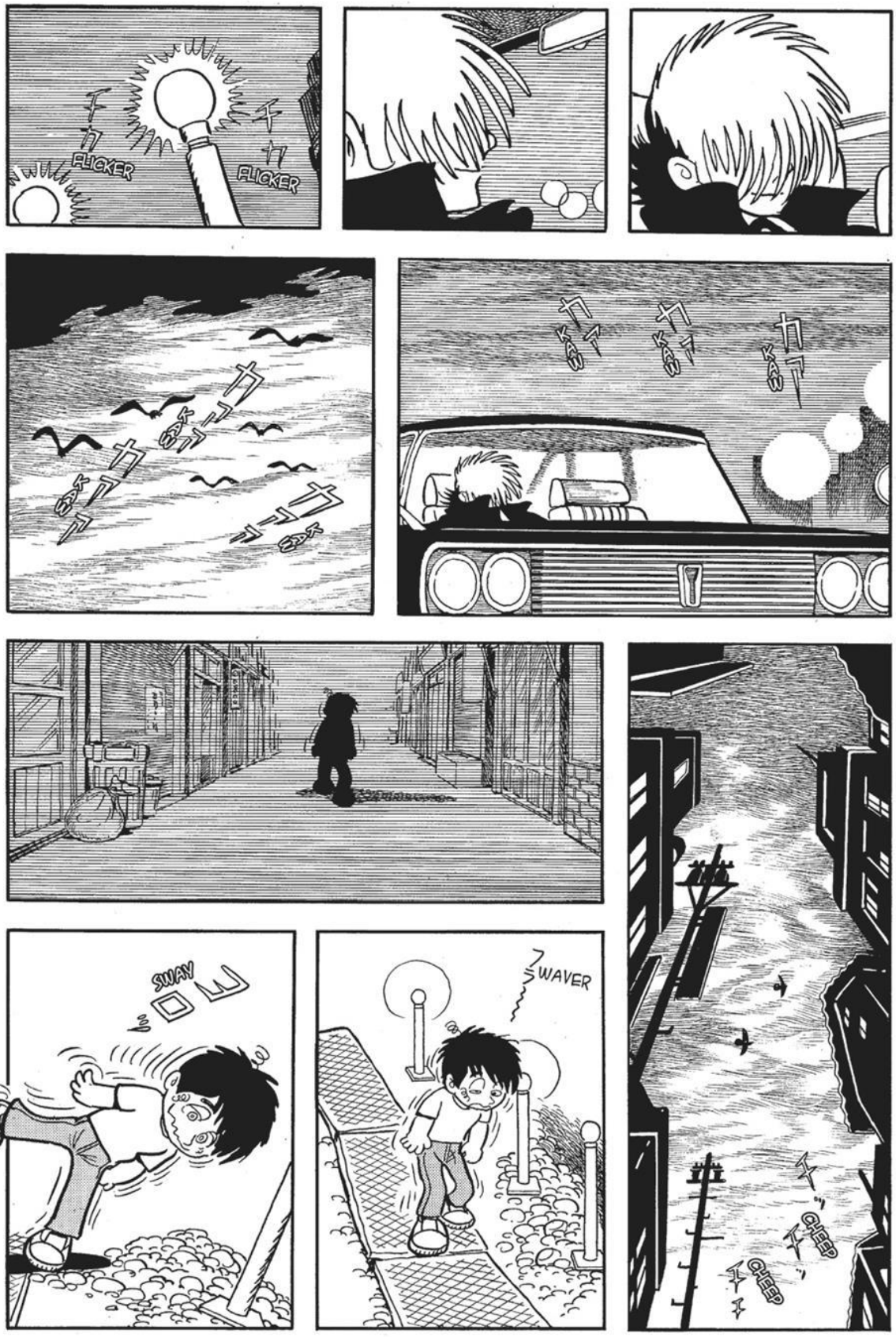


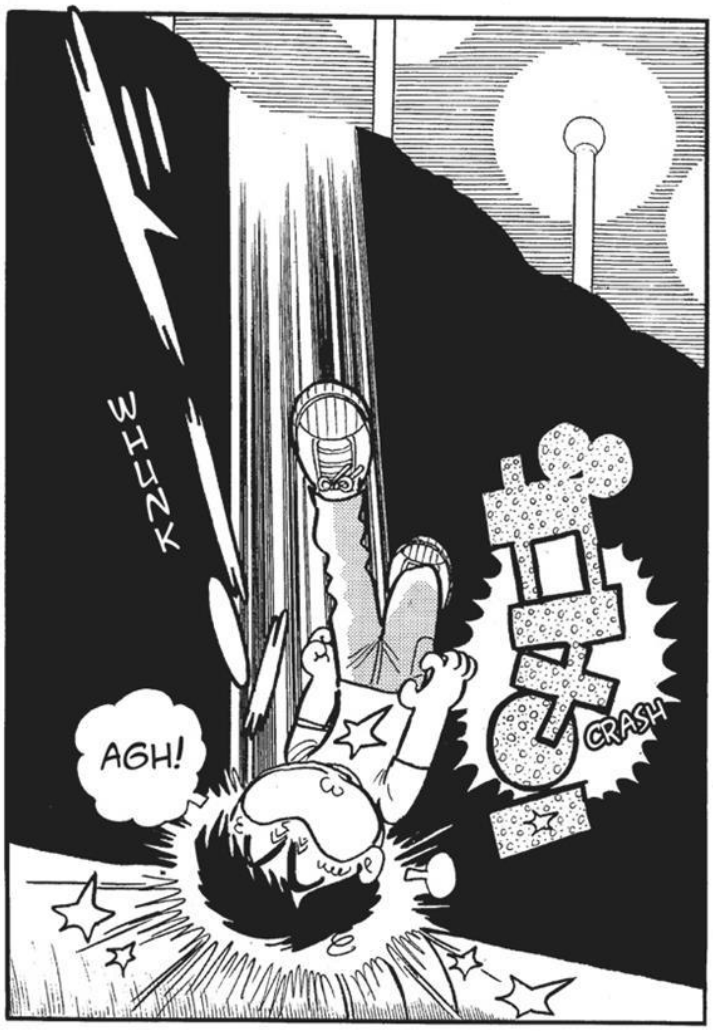

Water
Main
Repair
No X-ing

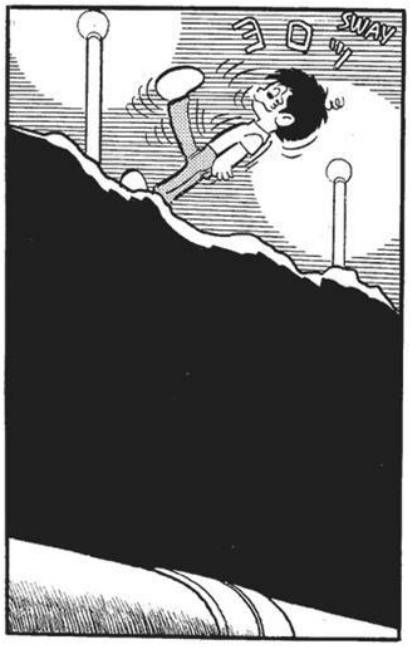
SCREECH

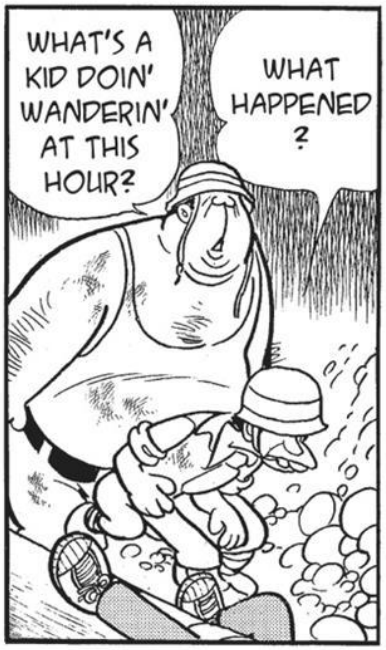

WE CAN'T
LET YOU PASS!
PLEASE RETURN
TO THE HIGHWAY!


I'LL WAIT, SINCE I'M ALREADY HERE.
TWO HOURS ...
IT'LL TAKE US TWO MORE HOURS.
YES, THERE IS.
THERE WASN'T ANY "NO CROSSING" SIGN!
IF I CAN PASS BEFORE DAWN, I'LL WAIT.
IT'S A PAIN TO GO BACK TO THE HIGHWAY.
WHAT?
Water Main Repair No X-ing Cars turn back
I'LL TAKE A NAP.
FIGURES ...
WHAT AN ODDBALL.
HE'S WEARIN' A COAT IN SUMMER.


FLICKER
FLICKER
KAB
KAB
KAB
SWAY
WAVER
CHEEP
CHEEP


WHUNK
AGH!
CRASH

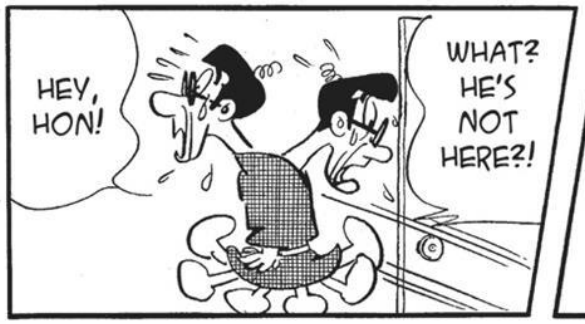

SWAV


WHAT'S A KID DOIN' WANDERIN' AT THIS HOUR?
WHAT HAPPENED ?

SOMEONE FELL?!

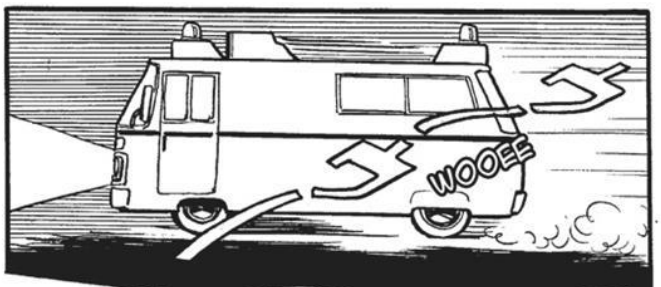
HELLO! ANYONE HOME? HELLO?!

HE LIVES THERE. GO TELL THEM.

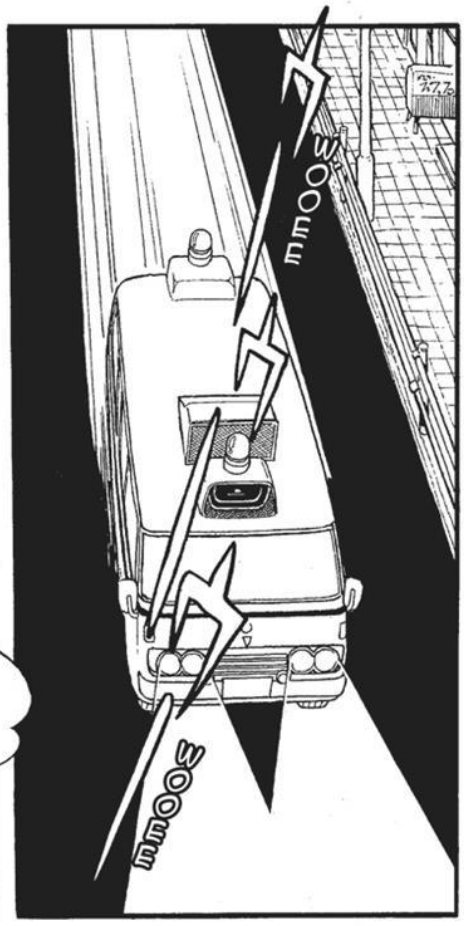

HEY, HON!
WHAT? HE'S NOT HERE?!

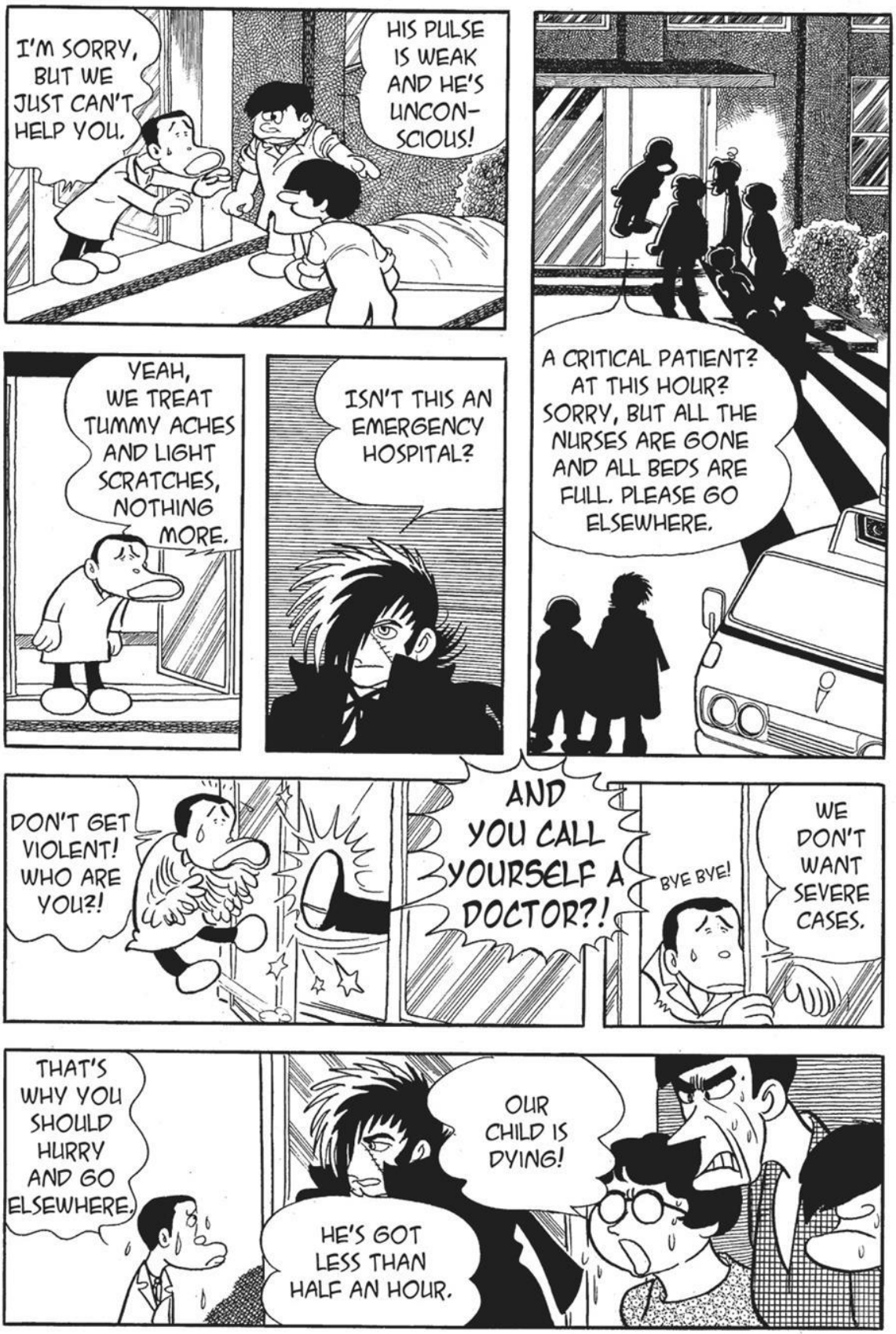
A HOLE FELL IN YOUR KID. NO, YOUR KID AND A HOLE FELL. NO, WAIT...
HUH? MY SON'S IN HIS ROOM.

TAKAO...
WHY ...?

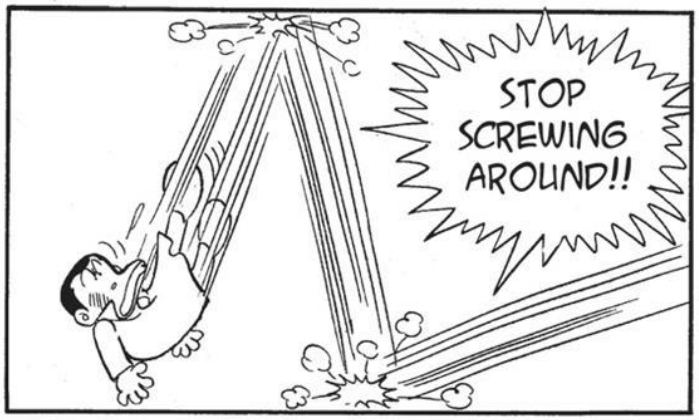

WOOEE

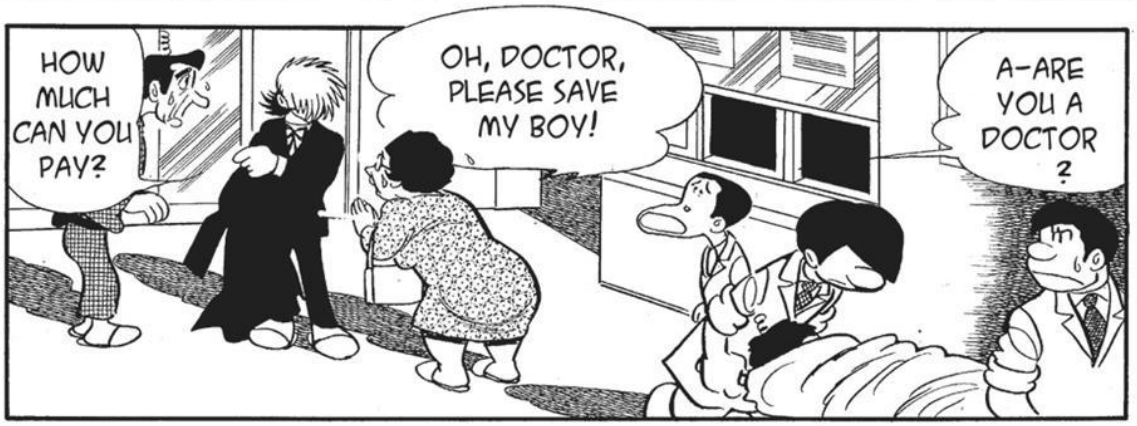
HE'S OUT COLD.
HE ISN'T JUST "OUT COLD," STUPID.


WOOOW
WOOOW

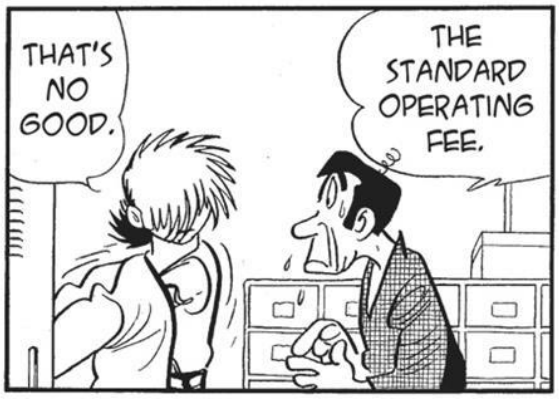

I'M SORRY, BUT WE JUST CAN'T HELP YOU.
HIS PULSE IS WEAK AND HE'S UNCON-SCIOUS!
A CRITICAL PATIENT? AT THIS HOUR? SORRY, BUT ALL THE NURSES ARE GONE AND ALL BEDS ARE FULL. PLEASE GO ELSEWHERE.
YEAH, WE TREAT TUMMY ACHES AND LIGHT SCRATCHES, NOTHING MORE.
ISN'T THIS AN EMERGENCY HOSPITAL?
DON'T GET VIOLENT! WHO ARE YOU?!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A DOCTOR?!
BYE BYE!
WE DON'T WANT SEVERE CASES.
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD HURRY AND GO ELSEWHERE.
OUR CHILD IS DYING!
HE'S GOT LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR.

NO CHOICE. I'LL DO IT.
GIMME YOUR O.R.


STOP SCREWING AROUND!!


HOW MUCH CAN YOU PAY?
OH, DOCTOR, PLEASE SAVE MY BOY!
A-ARE YOU A DOCTOR ?

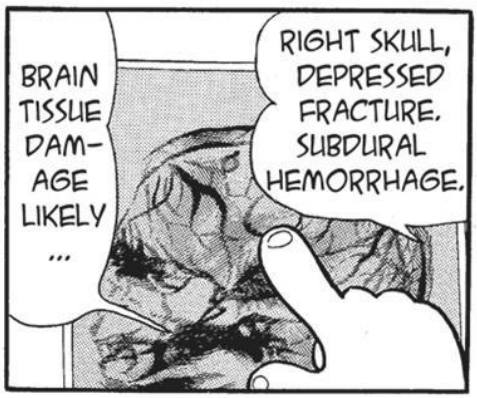
MONTHLY INSTALL-MENTS OKAY.
NOW I'M IN CRITICAL CONDITION !


THAT'S NO GOOD.
THE STANDARD OPERATING FEE.

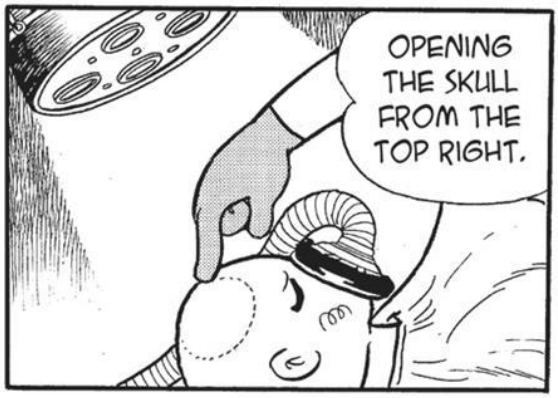
I'LL GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT ... JUST 10 MIL.
I'M NO STANDARD SURGEON.
AGH!

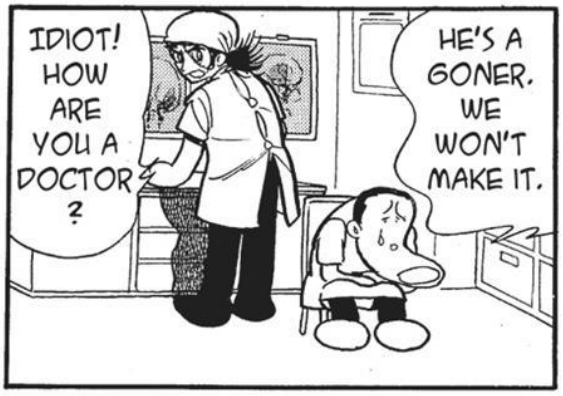
JUST HELP ALREADY!

I'M NOT A BRAIN SUR-GEON.
STOP STARING AND HELP OUT.


BRAIN TISSUE DAM-AGE LIKELY ...
RIGHT SKULL, DEPRESSED FRACTURE. SUBDURAL HEMORRHAGE.

X-RAYS READY? LET ME SEE.

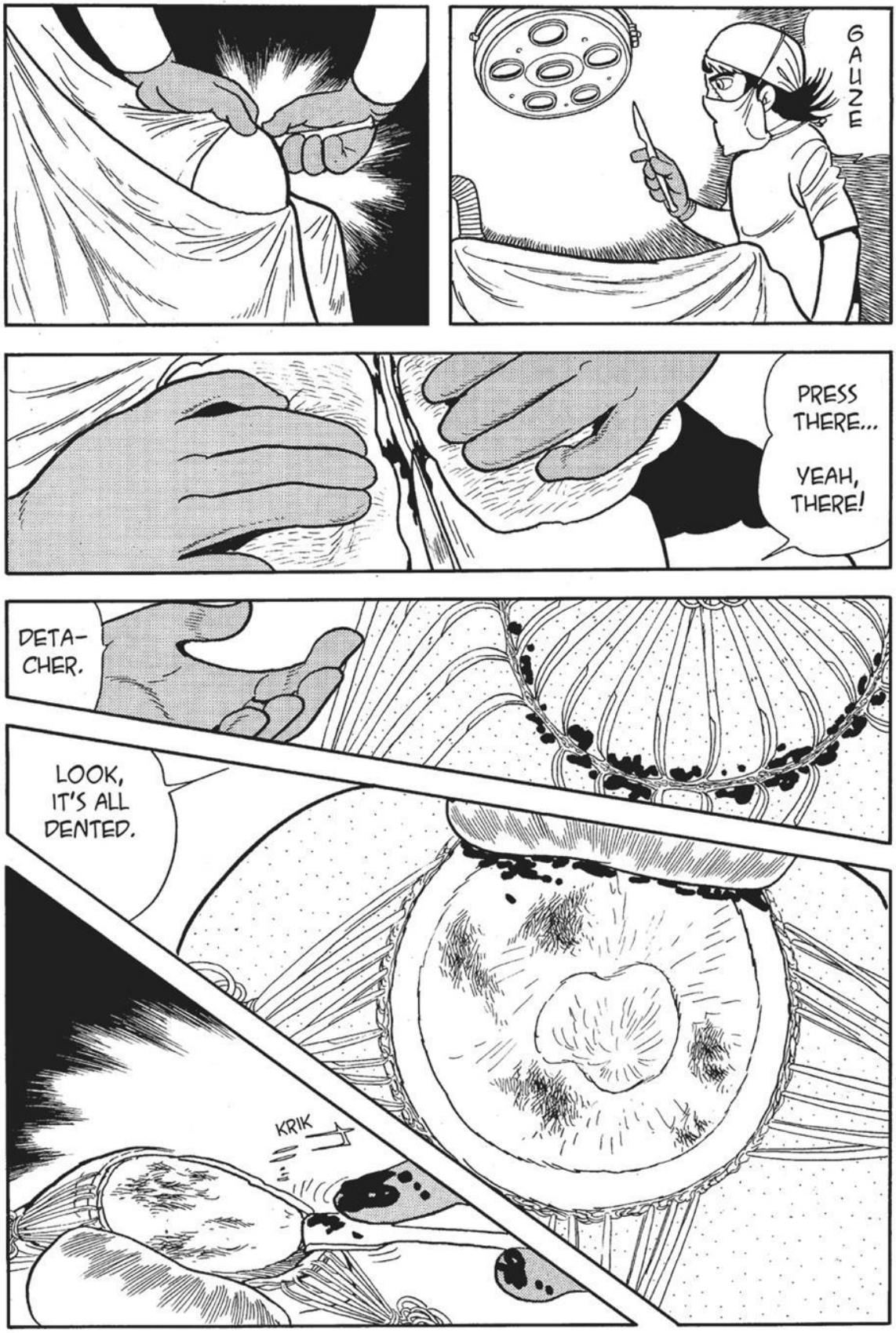

OPENING THE SKULL FROM THE TOP RIGHT.


IDIOT! HOW ARE YOU A DOCTOR ?
HE'S A GONER. WE WON'T MAKE IT.

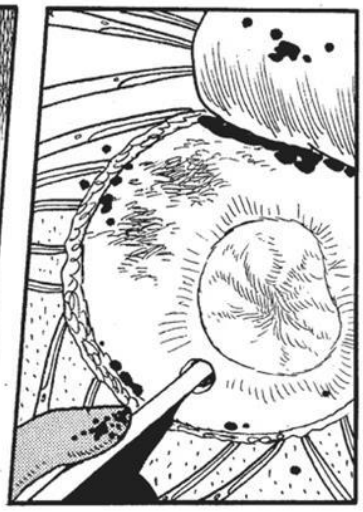
WATCH THE EEG NOW.
IV DRIP READY ?
I CAN'T KEEP UP!

HUDSON DRILL

BONE WAX, PLEASE.


GAUZE
PRESS THERE...
YEAH, THERE!
DETA-CHER.
LOOK, IT'S ALL DENTED.
KRIK

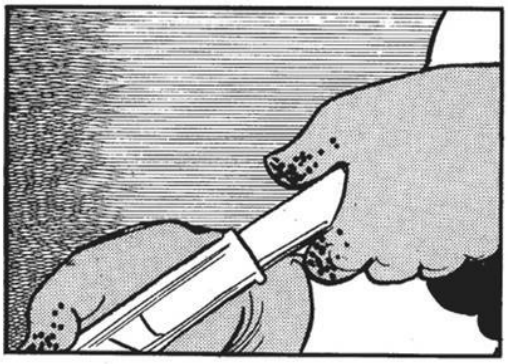
O...
KAY...
POP
コポ

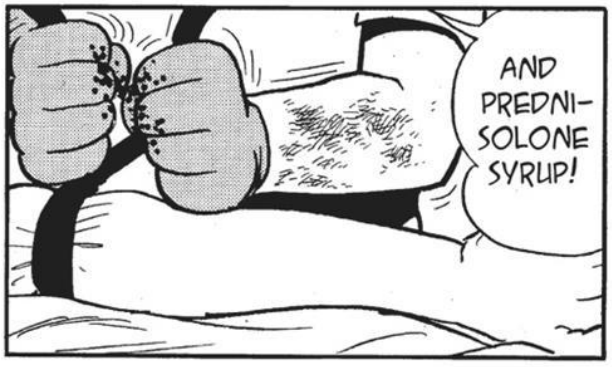


KRRR
KRRR

IV!
MANNITE
20%!

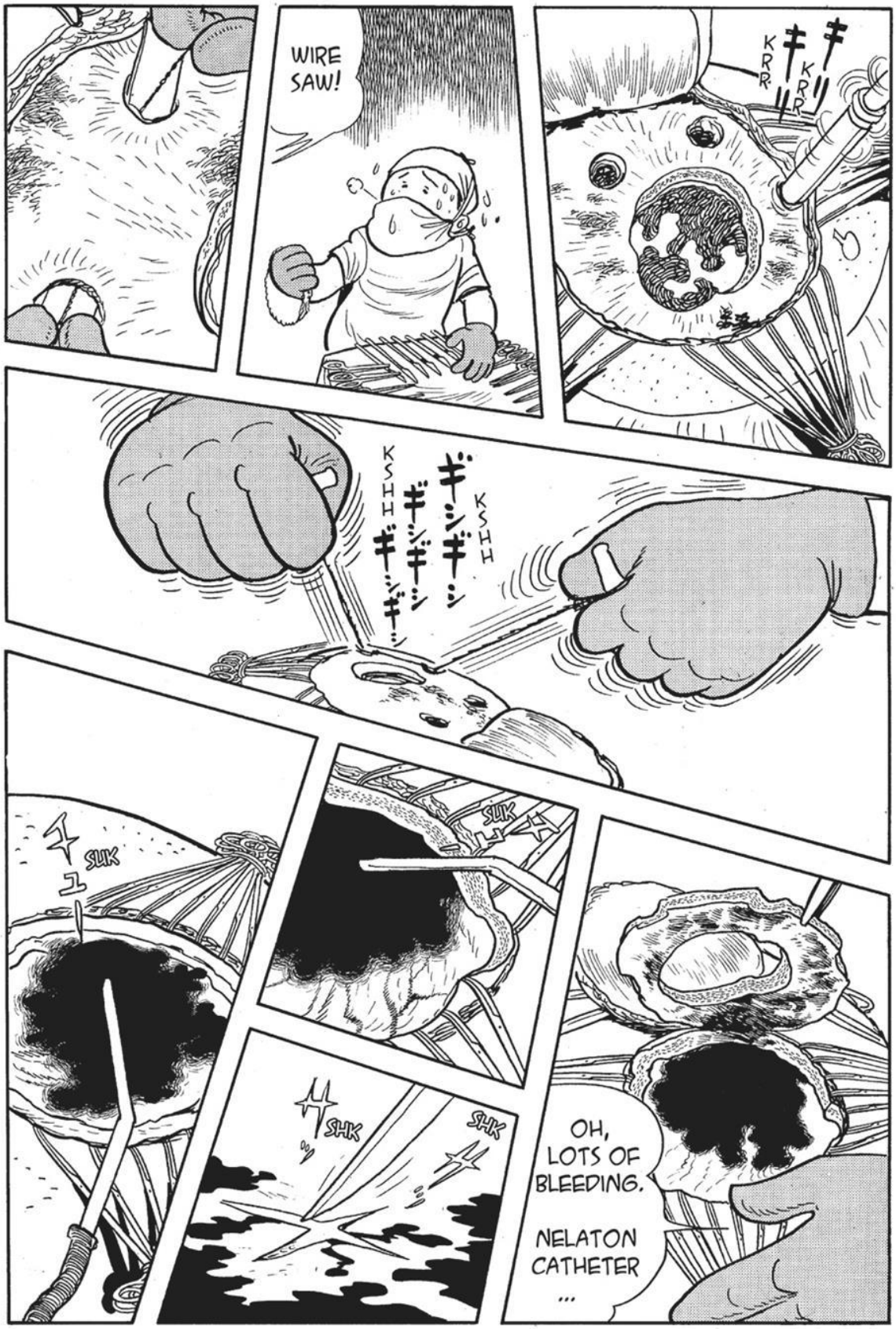
OOPS.
THIS ISN'T
GOOD.




AND
PREDNI-
SOLONE
SYRUP!

HURRY UP
AND HAND
IT TO ME!
FRET
オロオロ
DON'T
FRET
SO!

OKAY...
DRILL.


WIRE SAW!
KRR
KRR
KRR
KSHH
KSHH
KSHH
SUK
SUK
SHK
SHK
OH, LOTS OF BLEEDING.
NELATON CATHETER ...

SPONGE
ZZP
BLEEDING STOPPED ...
ELECTRO-CAUTERY NEXT.
EEG IS AB-NORMAL !
WASHING YOUR SINS AWAY ...
NOW CLEAN-SING BRAIN TISSUE.
BINGO, TIME TO PUT IT ALL BACK.
'COURSE IT IS. I'M TOUCHING THE BRAIN.

W... WHY?
TO REPLACE THE DAMAGED SUBDURAL LAYER.

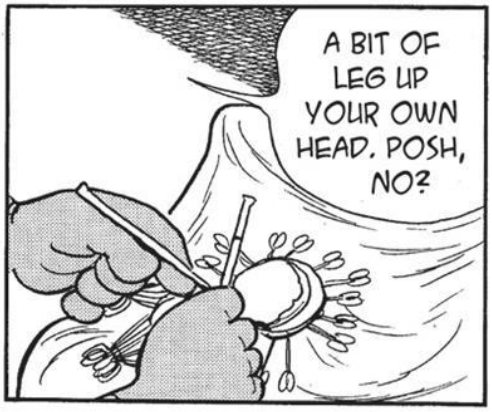
ULP!
OPEN-ING THIGH!

SHEESH, FINALLY DONE.

THIS IS WHAT I NEED.
WHATEVER YOU SAY.

YOU'RE GOOD.
THIS PART IS EASY. HANG IN THERE.

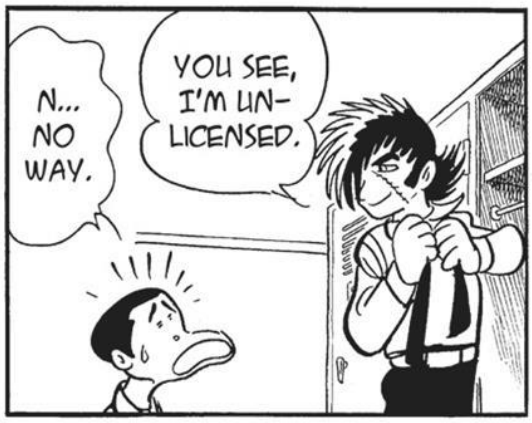
AND... WE'LL STAVE OFF SECONDARY BLEEDING WITH A DRAIN.


A BIT OF LEG UP YOUR OWN HEAD. POSH, NO?

THE DIRECTOR WILL BE HERE SOON. WE CAN TAKE OVER.

I DO IT ALL THE TIME.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID IT ALL YOURSELF!


N... NO WAY.
YOU SEE, I'M UN-LICENSED.

NO THANKS.
UM, PLEASE MEET HIM. I'VE NEVER SEEN A SURGEON LIKE YOU.

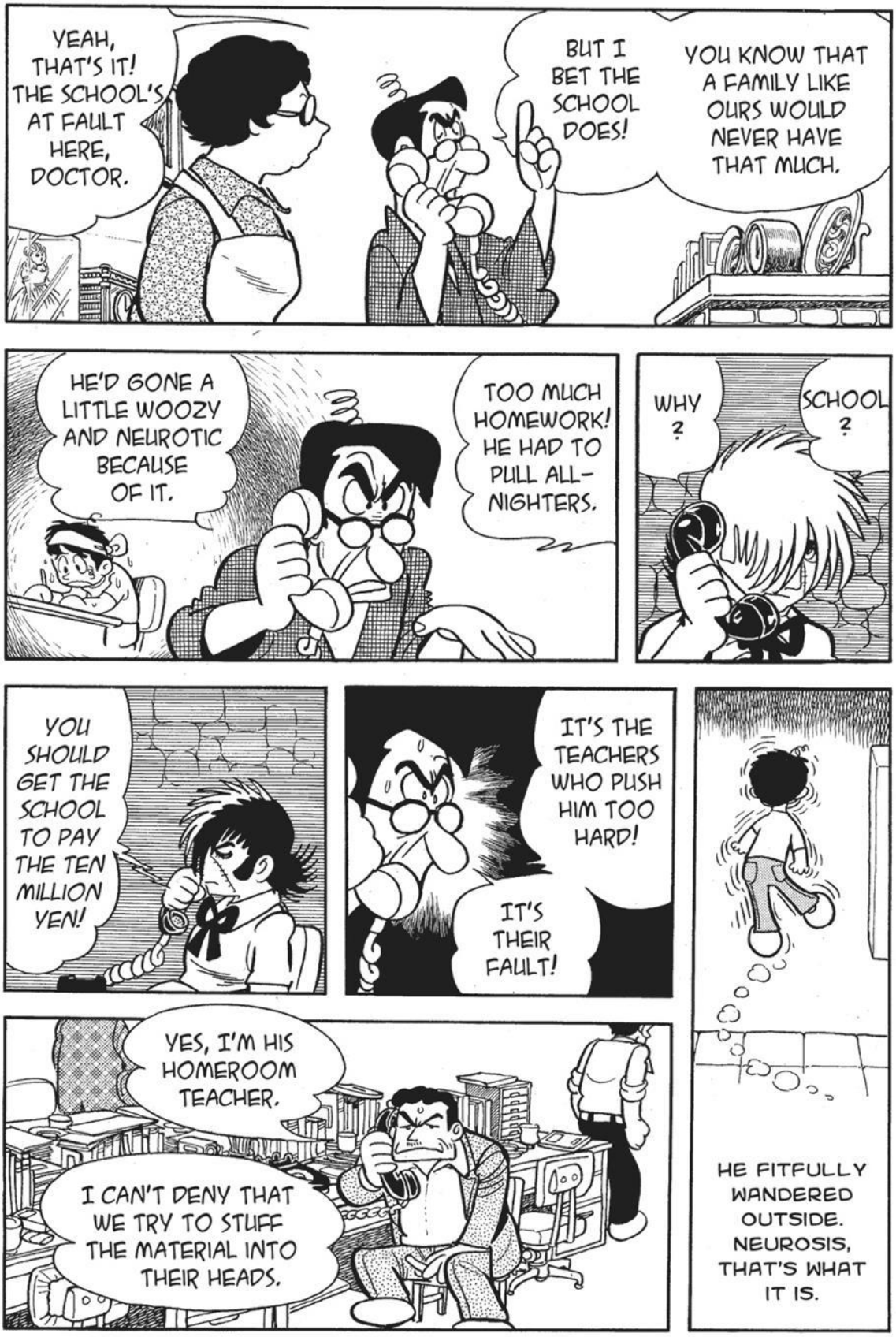
HOW'S TAKAO?
DOC-TOR!
EIGHTY PERCENT CHANCE HE'LL BE FINE.

NEED TO MAKE SURE THEY CAN PAY UP!
AND I

WE'RE NOT SAYING WE WON'T PAY YOU.
BUT 10 MILLION IS TOO MUCH! THAT'S EXTORTION!

IT'S THAT DOCTOR ON THE PHONE AGAIN.

CALLING TO DEMAND HIS FEE, EH?


YEAH, THAT'S IT! THE SCHOOL'S AT FAULT HERE, DOCTOR.
BUT I BET THE SCHOOL DOES!
YOU KNOW THAT A FAMILY LIKE OURS WOULD NEVER HAVE THAT MUCH.
HE'D GONE A LITTLE WOOZY AND NEUROTIC BECAUSE OF IT.
TOO MUCH HOMEWORK! HE HAD TO PULL ALL-NIGHTERS.
WHY ?
SCHOOL ?
YOU SHOULD GET THE SCHOOL TO PAY THE TEN MILLION YEN!
IT'S THE TEACHERS WHO PUSH HIM TOO HARD!
IT'S THEIR FAULT!
YES, I'M HIS HOMEROOM TEACHER.
I CAN'T DENY THAT WE TRY TO STUFF THE MATERIAL INTO THEIR HEADS.
HE FITFULLY WANDERED OUTSIDE. NEUROSIS, THAT'S WHAT IT IS.

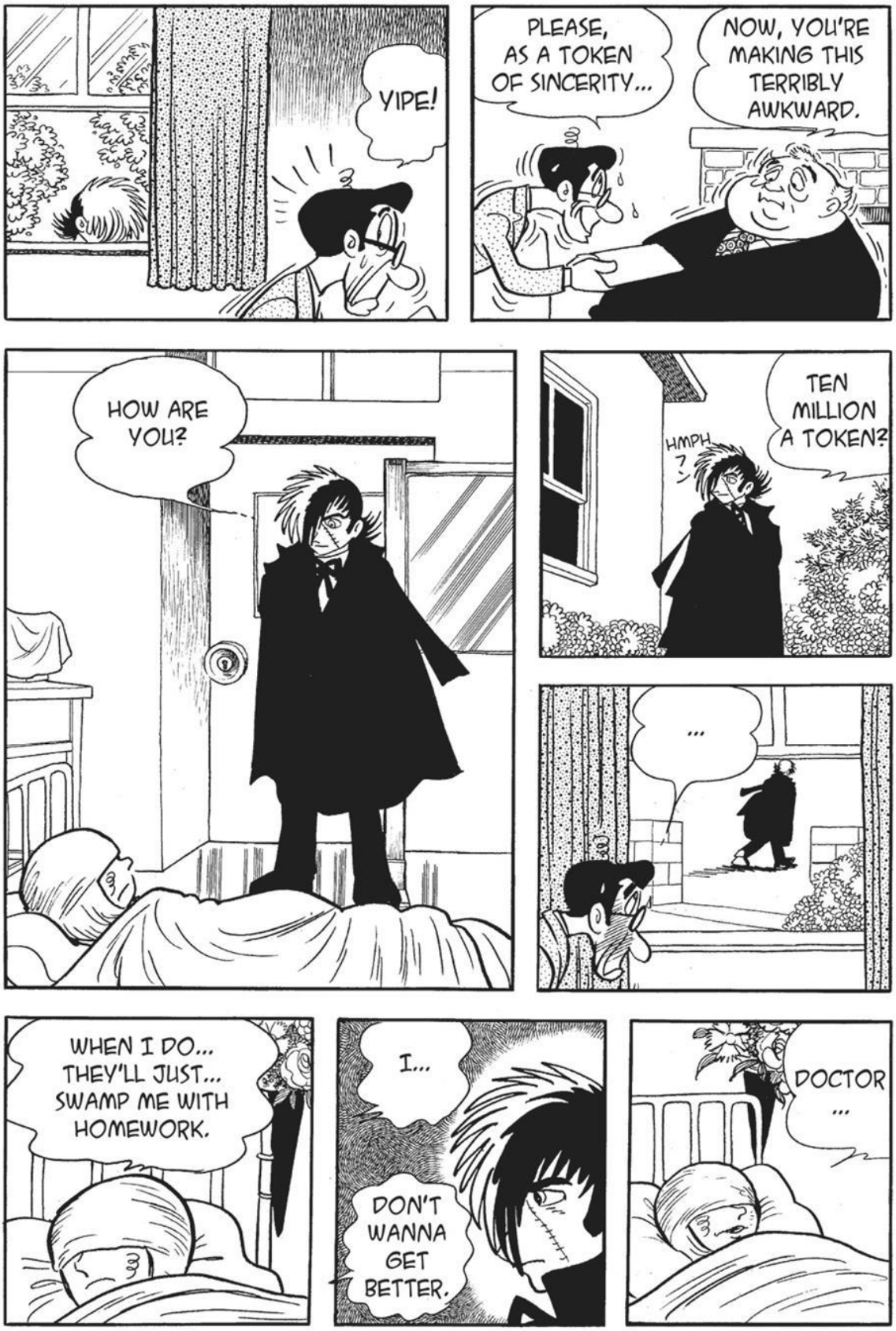
AND DOUBLE AGAIN THE NEXT DAY IF THEY DON'T FINISH THAT!
IF THEY DON'T FINISH, I GIVE 'EM TWICE AS MUCH THE NEXT DAY AS PUNISHMENT.
I KNOW I'M BEING STRICT, BUT I DO GIVE A TON OF HOMEWORK.

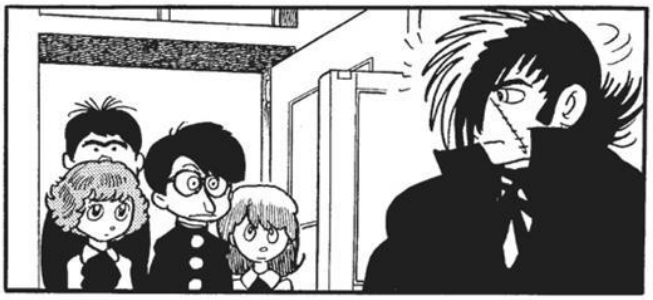
TAKAO'S GRADES, ESPECIALLY, AREN'T GOOD, AND HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP UP AS HE IS.
BECAUSE WE GOTTA PLACE THEM IN TOP-TIER SCHOOLS.
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY I DO THIS?

...

HIS ACCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY HIS FOLKS PUSHING TOO HARD TO GET HIM INTO A TOP SCHOOL.
GETTING BACK TO THE ISSUE ...

A BLOODY FARCE
OF FINGER-POINTERS!
BUT HIS GRADES ...
HERE IS TEN MILLION. IF IT WOULD HELP IN ANY WAY...
UHM,
PLEASE! PLEASE USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO GET OUR SON INTO YOUR SCHOOL! WE BEG YOU, SENSEI.
OLIVER
WE'LL DO ANYTHING IT TAKES.


YIPE!
PLEASE, AS A TOKEN OF SINCERITY...
NOW, YOU'RE MAKING THIS TERRIBLY AWKWARD.
HOW ARE YOU?
HMPH フン
TEN MILLION A TOKEN?
...
WHEN I DO... THEY'LL JUST... SWAMP ME WITH HOMEWORK.
I...
DON'T WANNA GET BETTER.
DOCTOR ...

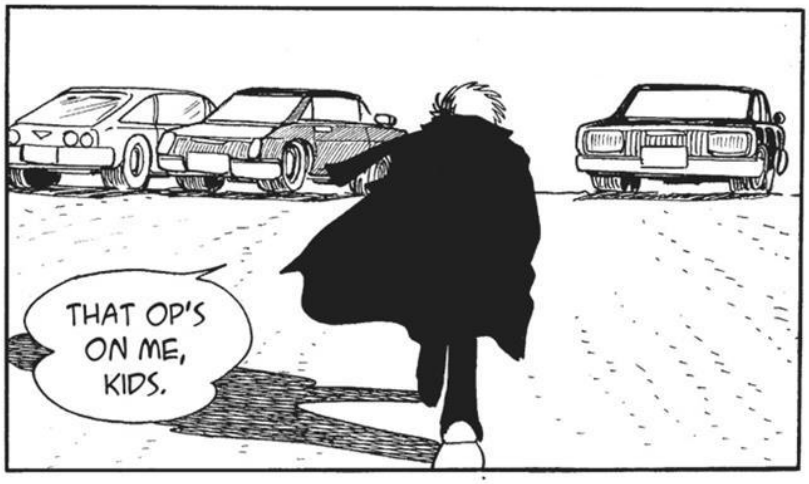


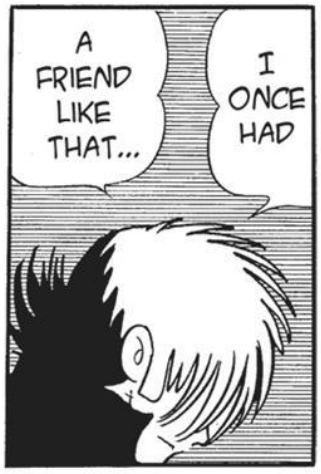
...

COME BACK TO SCHOOL, ALL RIGHT?
GET BETTER SOON.
HEY, TAKAO!

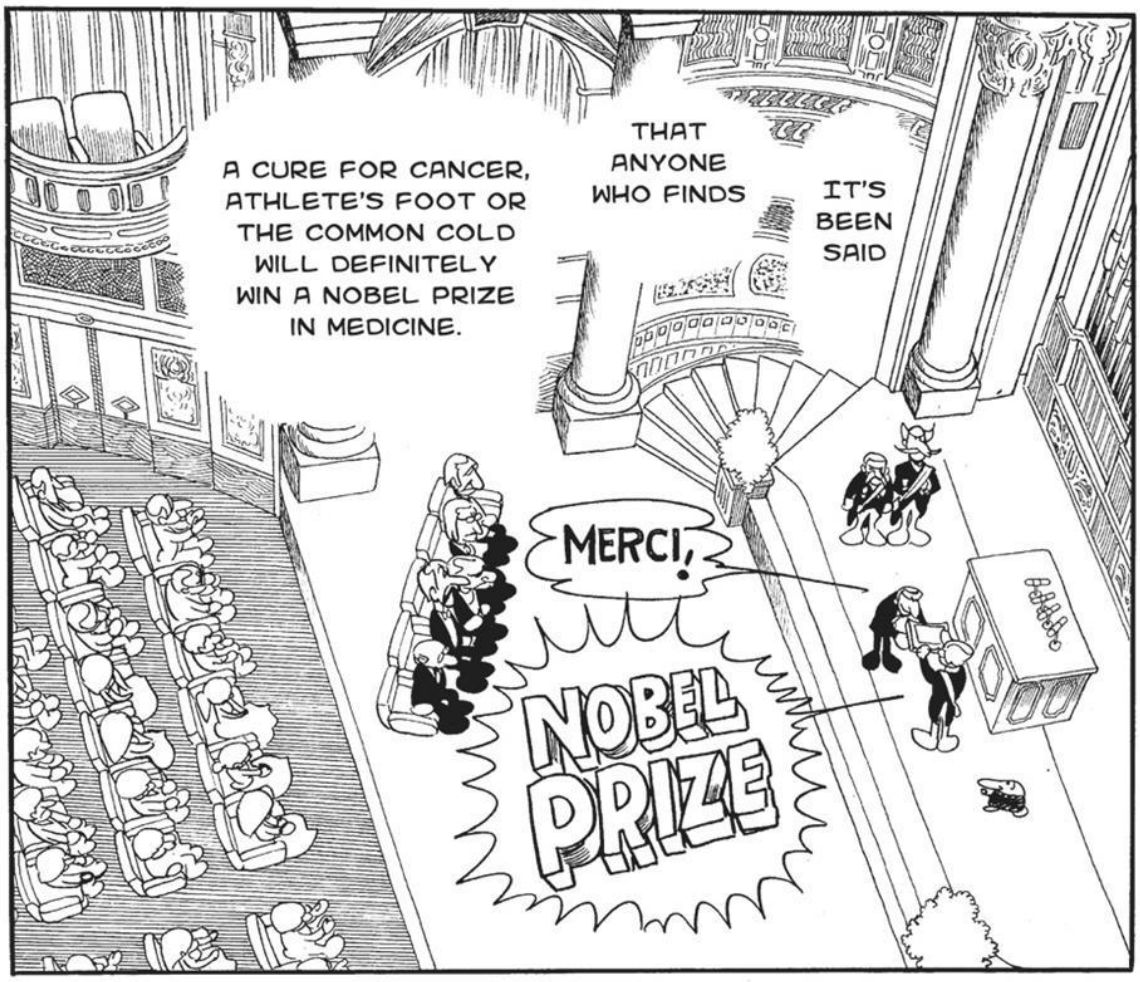
NICE KIDS ...

WE ASKED THEM TO EASE UP A BIT.
WROTE A LETTER TO THE PTA.
LISTEN, WE ALL
THEY'LL GIVE LESS HOMEWORK I BET!


THAT OP'S ON ME, KIDS.


A FRIEND LIKE THAT...
I ONCE HAD

THE NEXT CHANCE

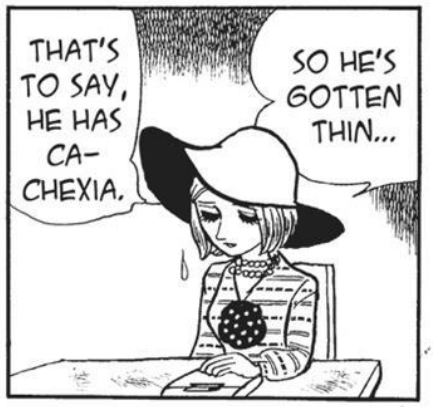

A CURE FOR CANCER, ATHLETE'S FOOT OR THE COMMON COLD WILL DEFINITELY WIN A NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE.
THAT ANYONE WHO FINDS
IT'S BEEN SAID
MERCI,
NOBEL PRIZE

ANY NASTY COMPLI-CATIONS?
AH HA, CAN-CER.

HEART SOMERSAULTS ?
HE CAN BARELY SWALLOW.

WHAT'S THE ILLNESS ?
ESOPHA-GEAL CANCER.

HE'S THE ONE WHO HAS CANCER.
YES, I RUN A HOSPITAL WITH MY BROTHER.
REALLY.

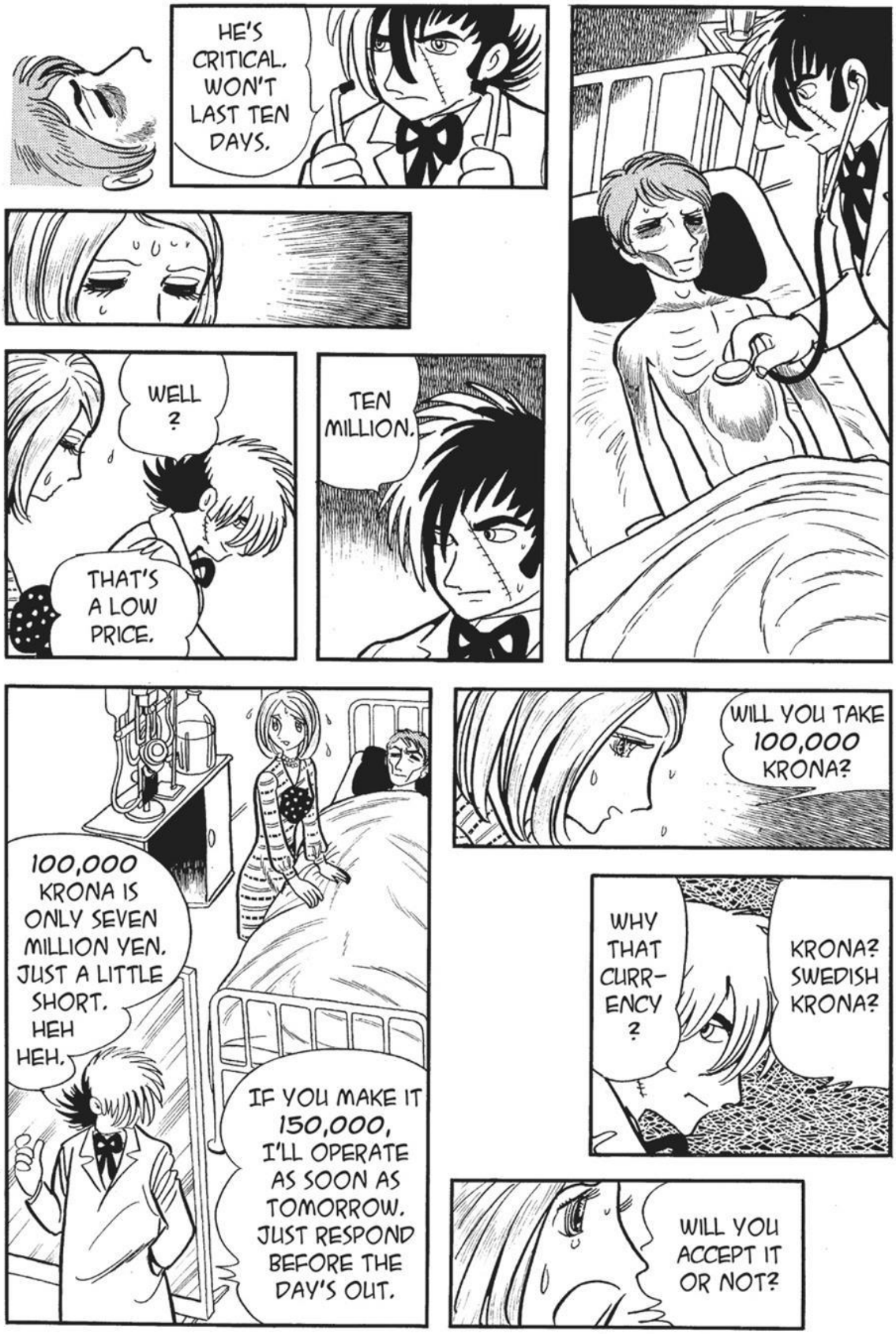

THAT'S TO SAY, HE HAS CA-CHEXIA.
SO HE'S GOTTEN THIN...

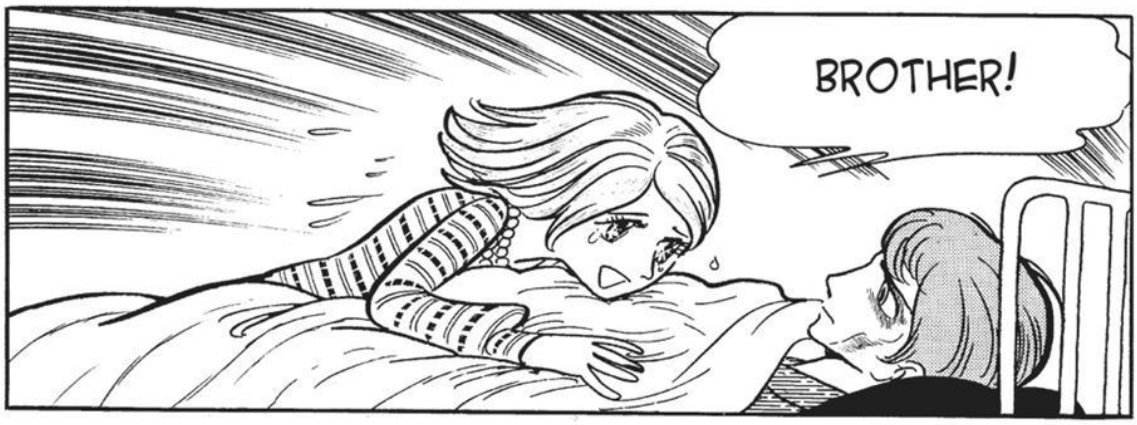
"CACHEXIA"? YOU MUST BE A DOCTOR IF YOU KNOW THAT WORD.

ARE YOU CLOSED TODAY? NO PATIENTS, NO DOCTORS, NO NURSES.
YES, I SENT EVERYONE AWAY.

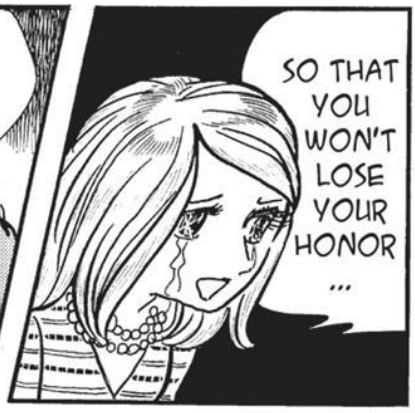
THIS IS YOUR HOSPITAL?

THIS IS A BIG HOSPITAL. YOU COULD'VE HAD SOMEONE OPERATE. WHY DIDN'T YOU?
I DON'T GET IT.
I SEE... THAT'S QUITE A TUMOR.
HE CAN'T LET THE PUBLIC ON TO IT. SO HE ASKED FOR ME...
LET ME GUESS. HE'S GOT SOME SECRET HE CAN'T LET THE OTHER DOCTORS KNOW ABOUT.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW.
OH?
SINCE HE CAN BUY MY SILENCE.
LET ME SEE YOUR BROTHER.
BUT MY FEE FOR STAYING QUIET IS HIGH. CAN YOU AFFORD IT?


HE'S CRITICAL. WON'T LAST TEN DAYS.
WELL ?
THAT'S A LOW PRICE.
TEN MILLION.
100,000 KRONA IS ONLY SEVEN MILLION YEN. JUST A LITTLE SHORT. HEH HEH.
IF YOU MAKE IT 150,000, I'LL OPERATE AS SOON AS TOMORROW. JUST RESPOND BEFORE THE DAY'S OUT.
WILL YOU TAKE 100,000 KRONA?
WHY THAT CURR-ENCY ?
KRONA? SWEDISH KRONA?
WILL YOU ACCEPT IT OR NOT?


BROTHER!

HE'S AN UNLICENSED SURGEON WITH A BAD REP. HE'LL EXTORT YOU.


SO THAT YOU WON'T LOSE YOUR HONOR ...

WHY HIM OF ALL DOC-TORS?
TO-SHIKO

HMM. I'VE DEFINITELY SEEN HIM BEFORE!

UH... UH...
UNH!

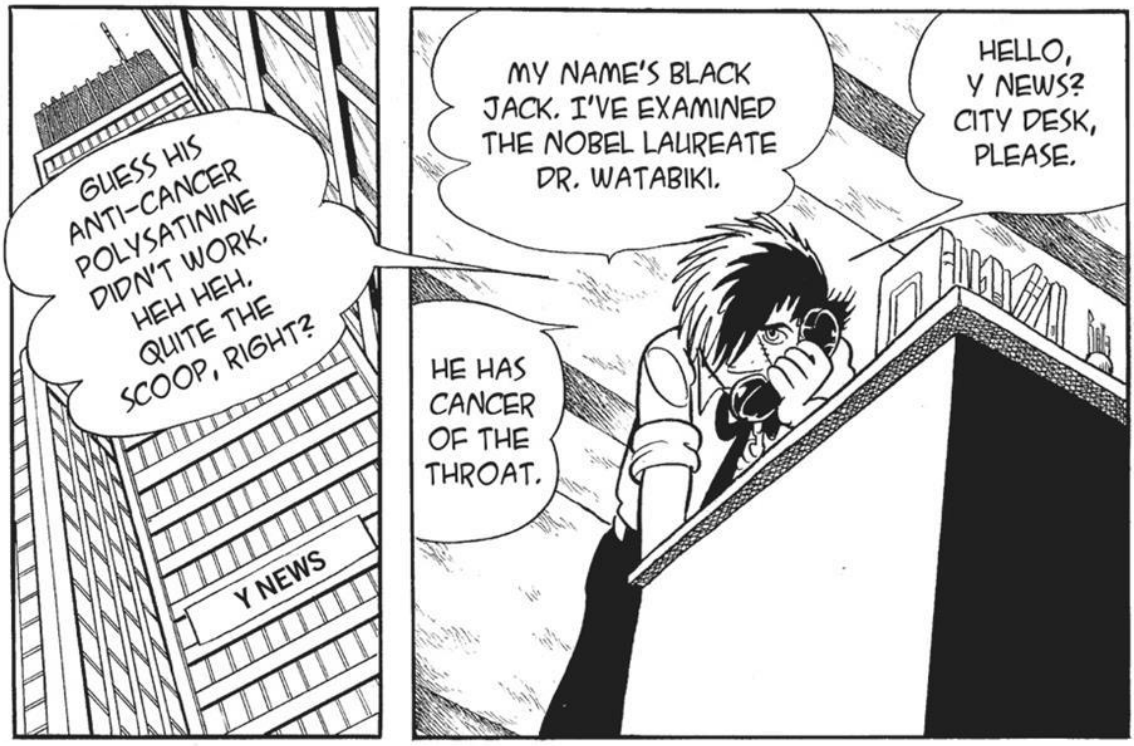
"PANT" "PANT"

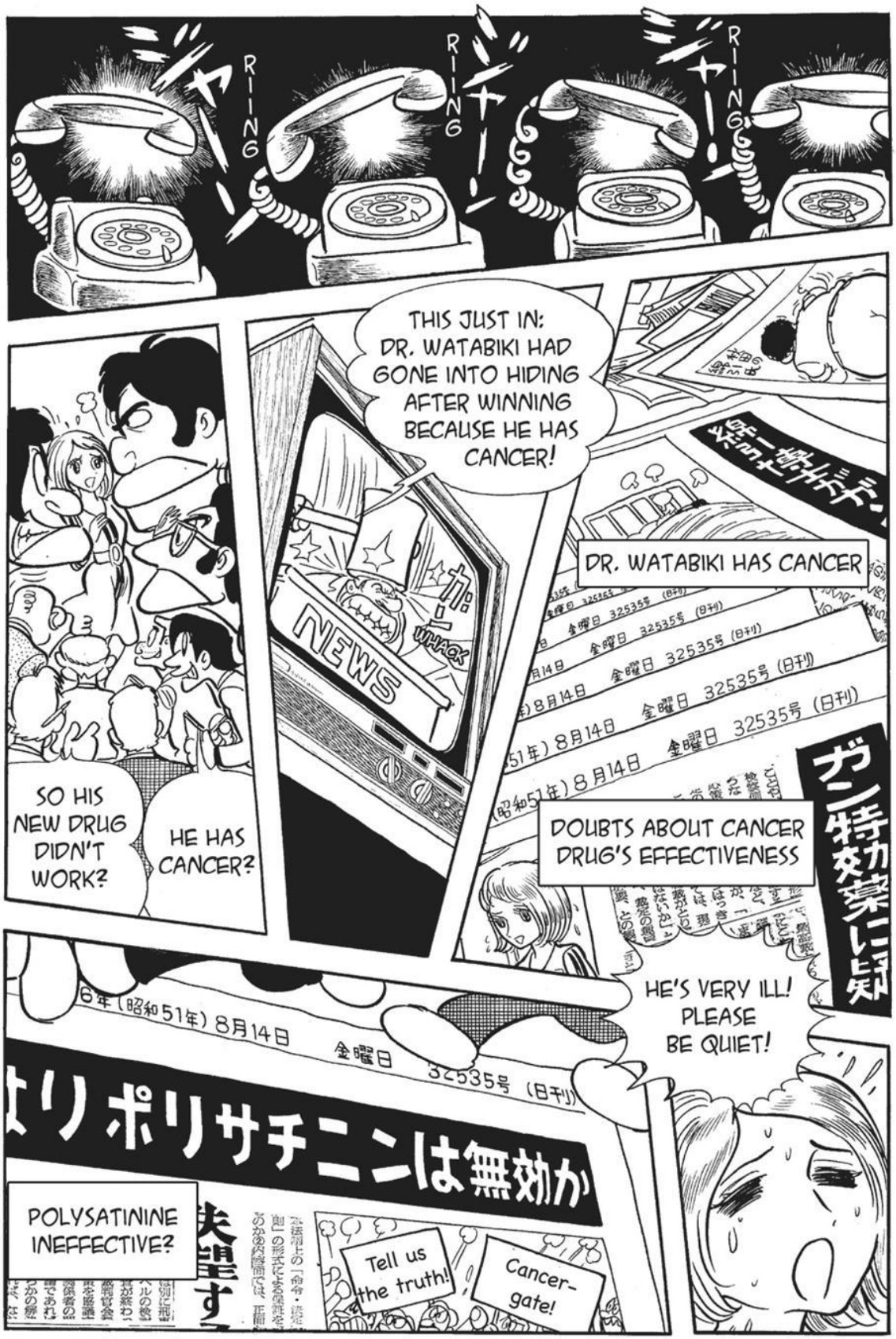
PLEASE
LET HIM OPE-RATE.

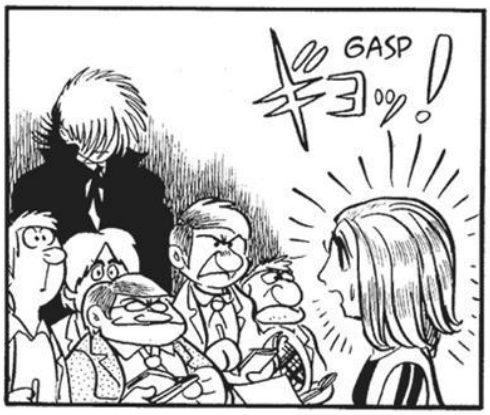
HIS PICTURE ...
SOME-WHERE, I'VE SEEN
HERE!!
YES, IT'S HIM! DOCTOR WATABIKI!
HAVE I NOT?
THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S THE YOUNG CHEMIST WHO JUST WON A NOBEL PRIZE!
NOW SUFFERS FROM CANCER HIMSELF. THE IRONY ...
A MAN WHO WINS A PRIZE FIGHTING CANCER
男の栄誉に
ガン特効薬ポリサチ
NOBEL PRIZE FOR DR. WATABIKI
NEW CANCER DRUG —
POLYSATININE

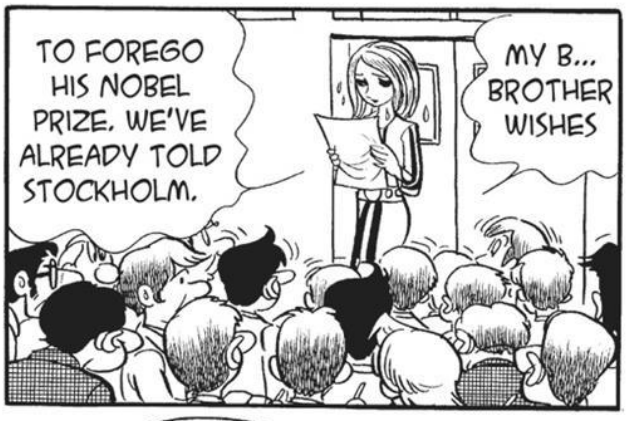
BUT YOUR MEDICINE IS ONLY PREVENTIVE. THE NATURAL OPTION AT THIS STAGE IS SURGERY!
TOSHIKO, I STILL HAVE MY PRIDE! I CAN'T FALL BACK ON SURGERY!
DON'T BE SO PROUD. THERE'S NO POINT IF YOU DIE.
THEY'LL MOCK ME FOR BEING UNABLE TO CURE MY OWN DAMN CANCER!
AND WHAT WILL THE PAPERS SAY? THAT MY MEDICINE'S NO GOOD.
...
JUST DON'T LET BLACK JACK OPERATE.
DR. BLACK JACK? ABOUT THAT DEAL...

ガチャリ
KLANG
ニヤッ
GRIN
BUT THIS WON'T WORK. I HAVE TO TURN DOWN YOUR SERVICES
AT MY BROTHER'S REQUEST. I'M SORRY ...
WAS THE SWEDISH CASH YOU OFFERED THE NOBEL PRIZE PAYOUT ?
I WANTED TO GIVE IT ALL TO YOU.
YES!

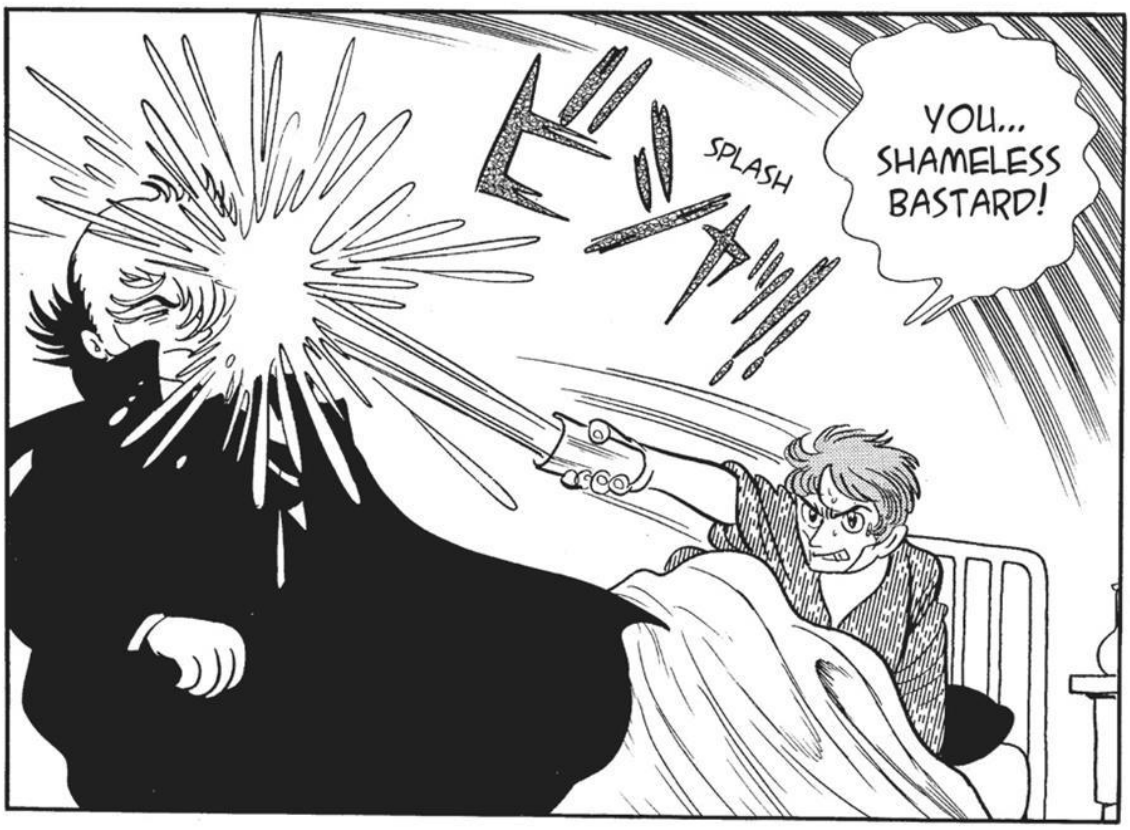

GUESS HIS ANTI-CANCER POLYSATININE DIDN'T WORK. HEH HEH. QUITE THE SCOOP, RIGHT?
Y NEWS
MY NAME'S BLACK JACK. I'VE EXAMINED THE NOBEL LAUREATE DR. WATABIKI.
HELLO, Y NEWS? CITY DESK, PLEASE.
HE HAS CANCER OF THE THROAT.


RING
RING
RING
THIS JUST IN: DR. WATABIKI HAD GONE INTO HIDING AFTER WINNING BECAUSE HE HAS CANCER!
NEWS
WHACK
DR. WATABIKI HAS CANCER
DOUBTS ABOUT CANCER DRUG'S EFFECTIVENESS
SO HIS NEW DRUG DIDN'T WORK?
HE HAS CANCER?
HE'S VERY ILL! PLEASE BE QUIET!
POLYSATININE INEFFECTIVE?
Tell us the truth!
Cancer-gate!


GASP


TO FOREGO HIS NOBEL PRIZE. WE'VE ALREADY TOLD STOCKHOLM.
MY B... BROTHER WISHES

YES. I SOLD THE STORY TO Y NEWS.
YOU SPILLED IT, DIDN'T YOU.


SPLASH
YOU... SHAMELESS BASTARD!

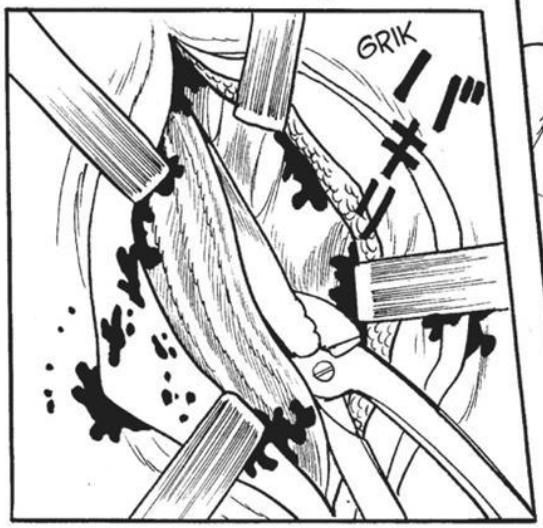
I DID ALL I COULD TO HIDE THIS!
HAVE YOU NO PITY?
BRO-THER !!
I HAVE MY PRIDE, AS A NOBEL LAUREATE...
AAGH!! NGGG... UNH!
SLAP
YET YOU DESTROYED THAT! NOW YOU'RE GONNA PAY!
S-STOP, BROTHER!

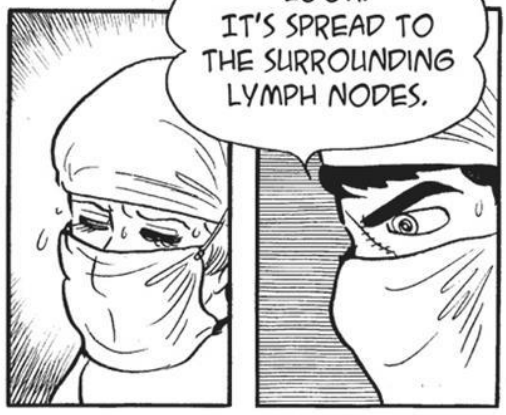
BROTHER!
PUSHED HIMSELF TOO FAR.
HE'S IN DANGER.
IF HE'S SAVED, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PAY SOMEDAY.
SO WHAT?
I'LL OPERATE RIGHT NOW. YOU ASSIST.
WE WON'T HAVE THAT PRIZE MONEY.
I TOLD YOU WE'VE TURNED DOWN YOUR SERVICE.

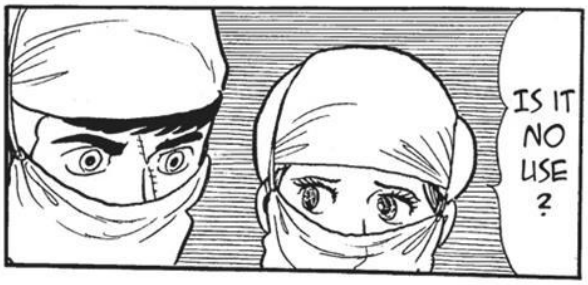
TIME'S NOT ON OUR SIDE.
THE ESOPHA-GUS GOT TORN.

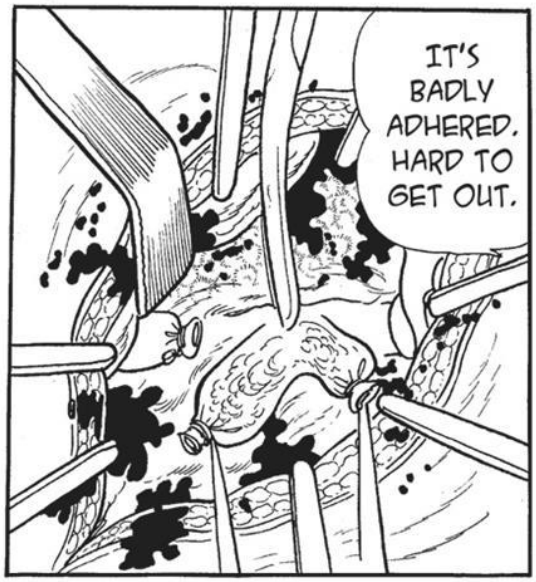
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET READY!

FIRST WE HAVE TO EVACUATE THE TRACHEA.
I'LL REMOVE THE TUMOR, THEN REBUILD AN ESOPHAGUS WITH SMALL INTESTINE TISSUE.

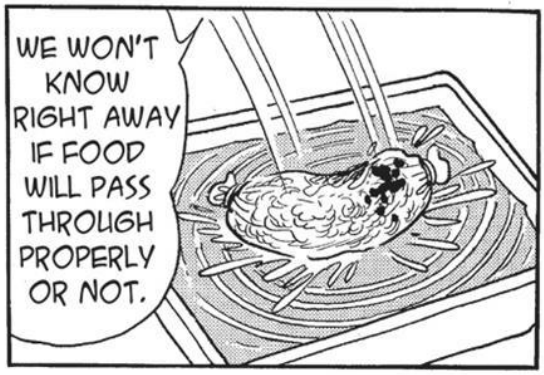

GRIK


LOOK! IT'S SPREAD TO THE SURROUNDING LYMPH NODES.

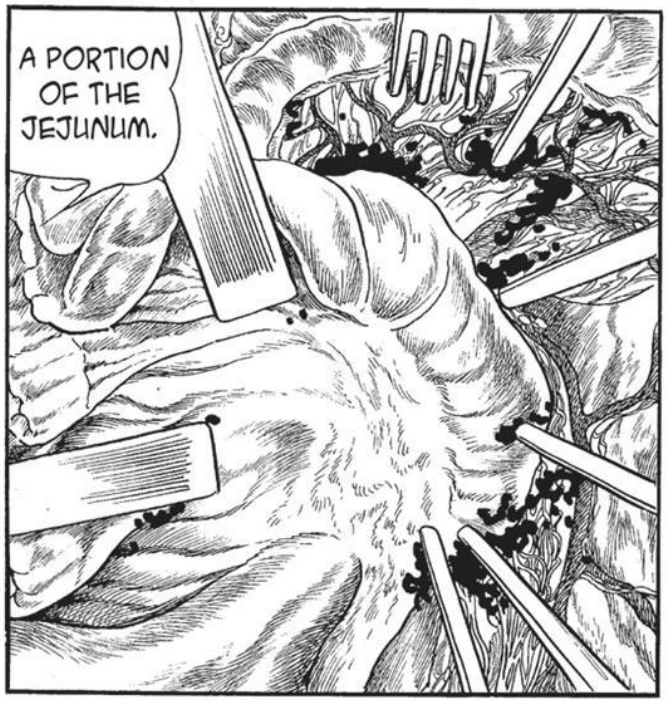

IS IT NO USE ?

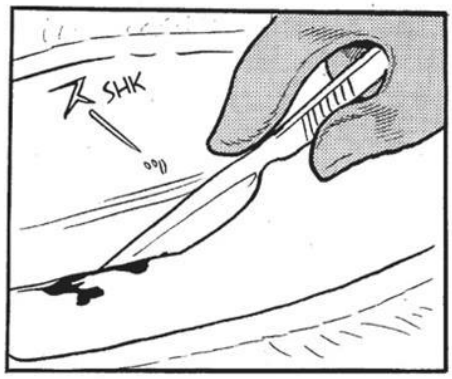

IT'S BADLY ADHERED. HARD TO GET OUT.

YOU CAN NEVER SAY WITH CERTAINTY WHETHER AN OPERATION IS OF USE, MISS.

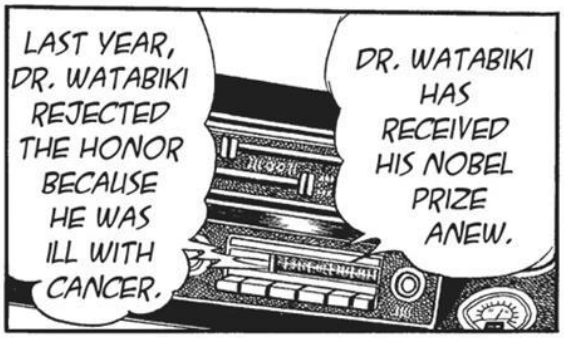

WE WON'T KNOW RIGHT AWAY IF FOOD WILL PASS THROUGH PROPERLY OR NOT.

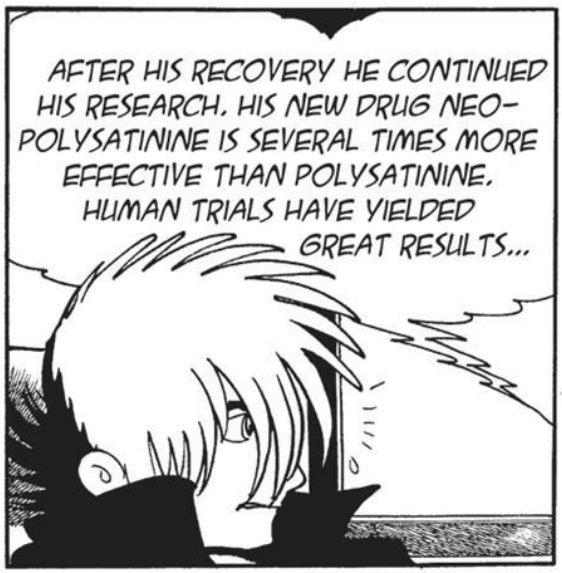
WITH ESO-PHAGEAL CANCER,


A PORTION OF THE JEJUNUM.

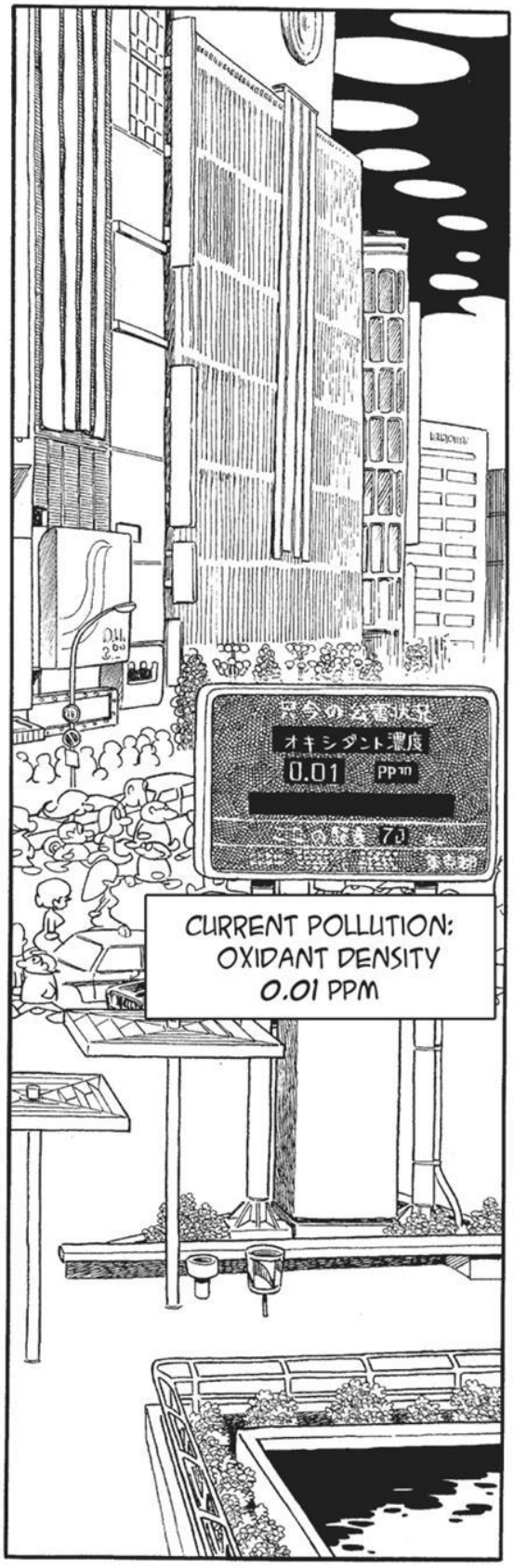

SHK

"PANT"
"PANT"
NOW I'VE FIXED THE THROAT.
PANT
PANT
WHUMP
SO LONG.
GASP
I'M DONE.
EXACTLY THREE HOURS.

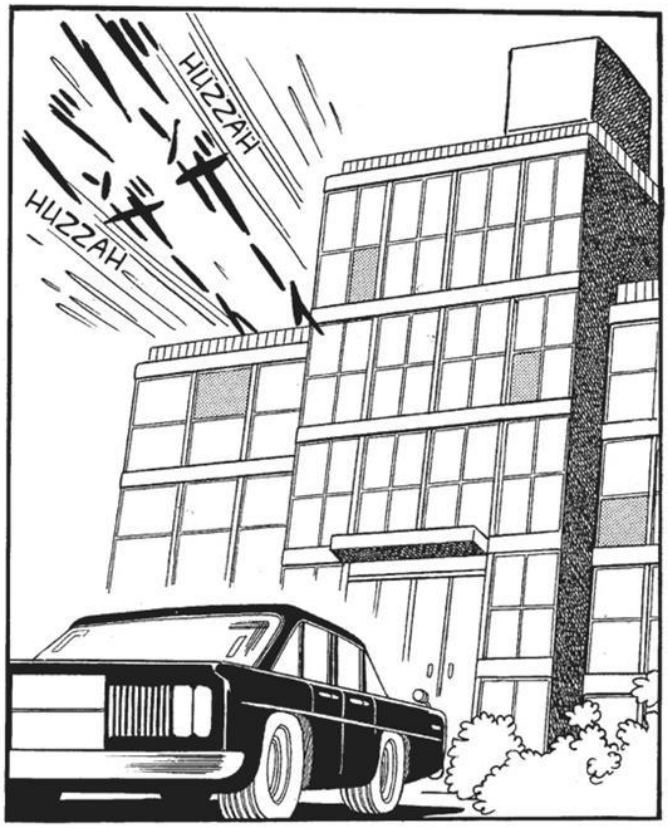

LAST YEAR, DR. WATABIKI REJECTED THE HONOR BECAUSE HE WAS ILL WITH CANCER.
DR. WATABIKI HAS RECEIVED HIS NOBEL PRIZE ANEW.

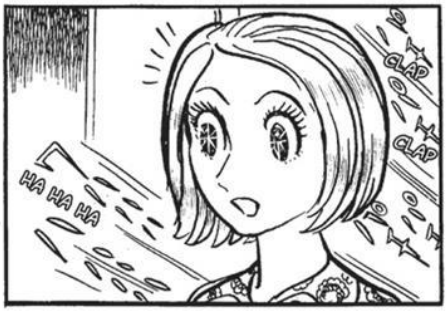

AFTER HIS RECOVERY HE CONTINUED HIS RESEARCH. HIS NEW DRUG NEO-POLYSATININE IS SEVERAL TIMES MORE EFFECTIVE THAN POLYSATININE. HUMAN TRIALS HAVE YIELDED GREAT RESULTS...

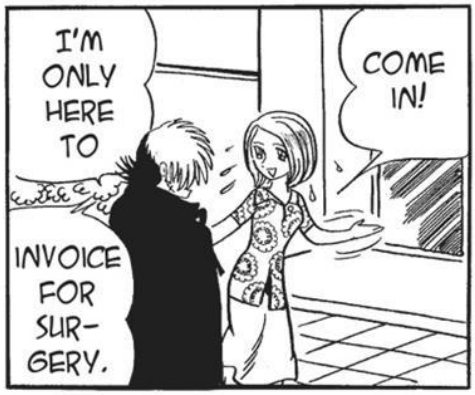
SO IT'S BEEN A YEAR ALREADY ...

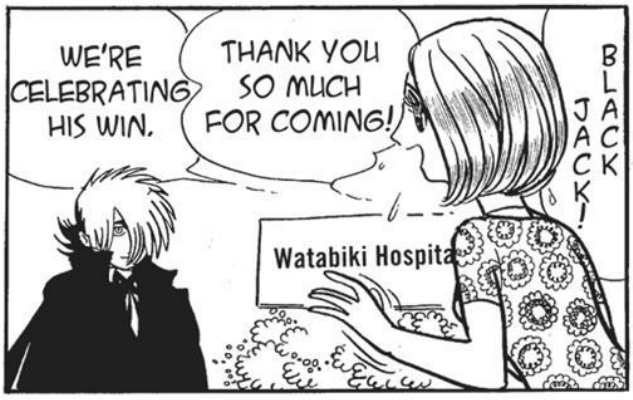

オキシダント濃度
0.01 PPm
70
CURRENT POLLUTION: OXIDANT DENSITY 0.01 PPM

LONG LIVE DR. WATA-BIKI!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CON-GRATS!


HUZZAH
HUZZAH

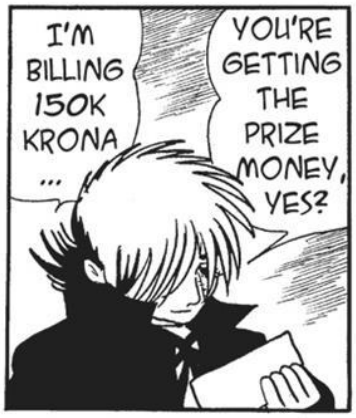

CLAP
CLAP
HA HA HA


I'M ONLY HERE TO INVOICE FOR SUR-GERY.
COME IN!


WE'RE CELEBRATING HIS WIN.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING!
BLACK JACK!
Watabiki Hospita

DOCTOR, PLEASE GO SEE MY BROTHER. HE'S WELL NOW.

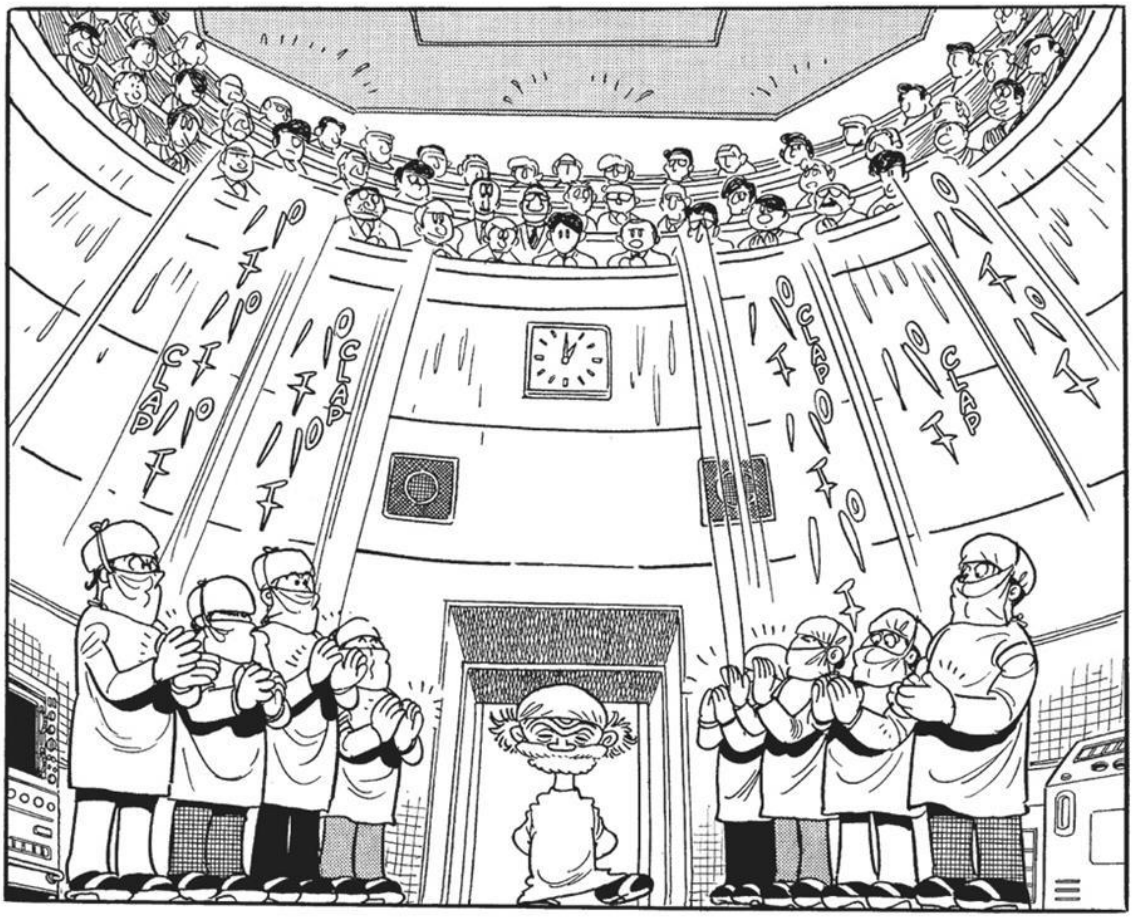
BUT I'LL GIFT 149,990 BACK IN THE WAY OF CON-GRATULATIONS.
LET ME KEEP 10 KRONA.

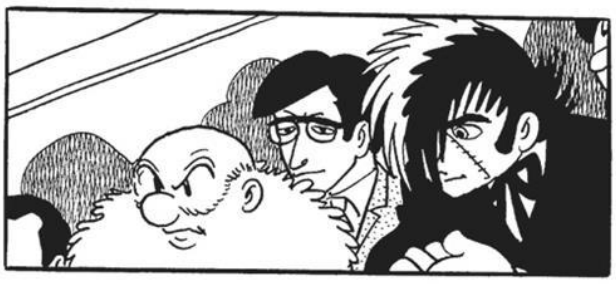

I'M BILLING 150K KRONA ...
YOU'RE GETTING THE PRIZE MONEY, YES?

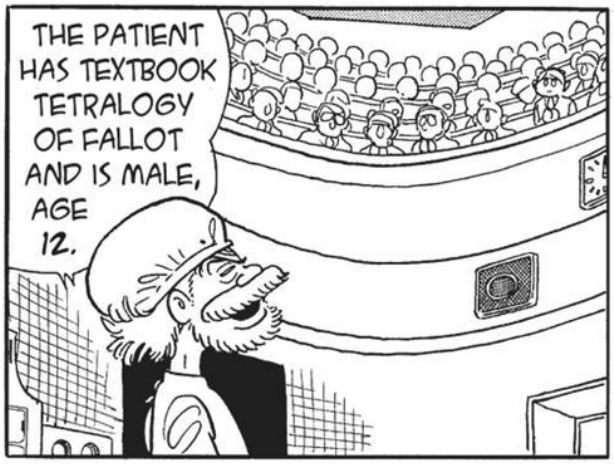
...
WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?
I'VE NO INTEREST IN NOBEL LAUREATES.
NEOPOLYSATININE IS 100% EFFECTIVE AT PREVENTING METASTASIS AS IT ONLY ATTACKS AND KILLS CANCEROUS CELLS...

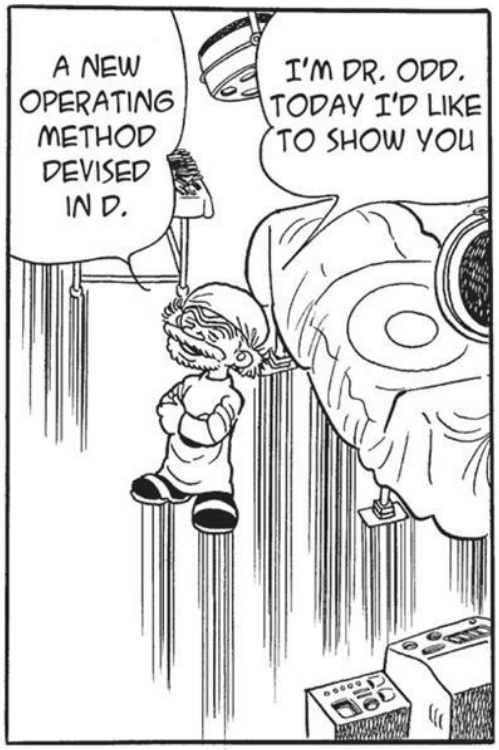
A SURGEON LIVES FOR MUSIC

DO YOU KNOW DR. ODD OF NATION D?
THE WORLD-CLASS SURGEON? I HEARD HE'S BEEN INVITED TO A CONFERENCE RIGHT HERE IN JAPAN ...
HE'S SCHEDULED TO DEMONSTRATE A NEW SURGERY METHOD FROM NATION D.
WANNA SEE?
OF COURSE! CAN YOU GET ME IN, DOCTOR YAMADANO?
I'LL ASK. COME TO THE 1ST SURGERY DEPART-MENT, INT'L HOSPITAL.
HE'S GOING TO OPERATE WHILE HE'S HERE?


CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP




THE PATIENT HAS TEXTBOOK TETRALOGY OF FALLOT AND IS MALE, AGE 12.


A NEW OPERATING METHOD DEVISED IN D.
I'M DR. ODD. TODAY I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU

LET IT BE 〈レット・イット・ビー〉
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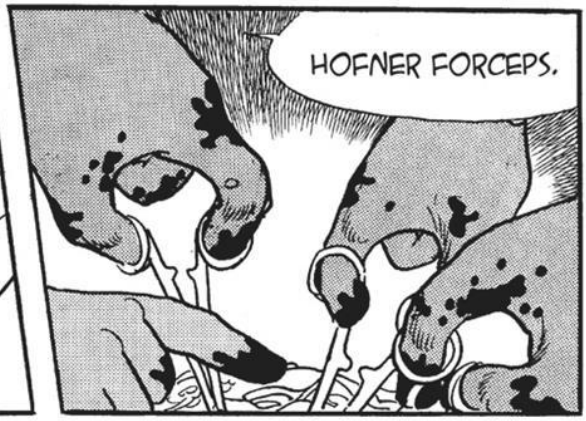
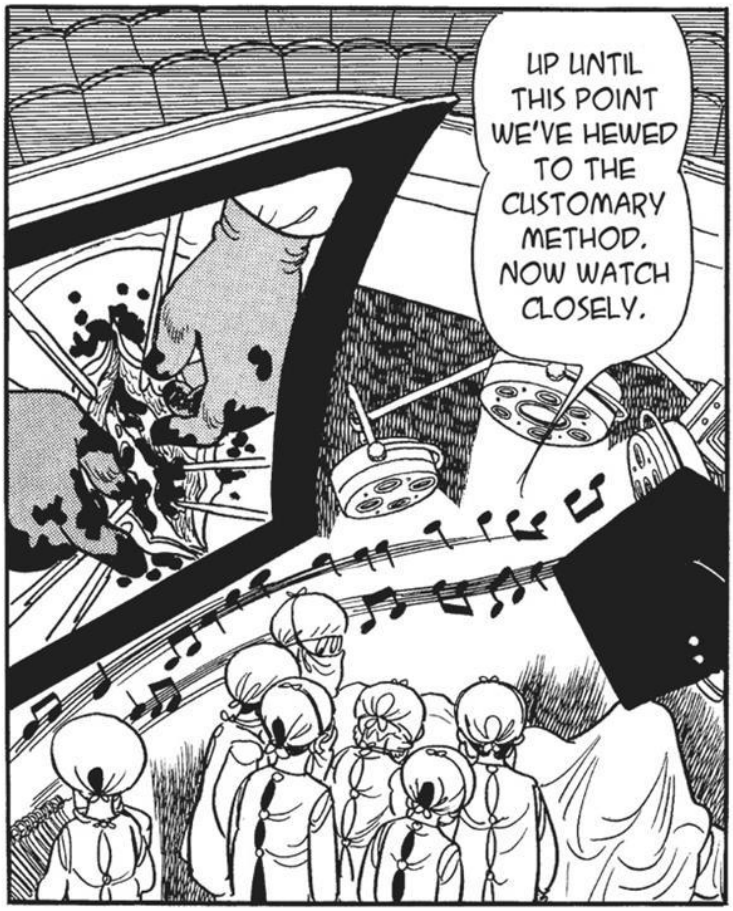
WHEN I FIND MYSELF IN TIMES OF TROUBLE...
MOTHER MARY
CO ME...
SPEAKING WORDS
NO. 1 FORCEPS ...
RIB TONGS...

...OF WISDOM, LET IT BE

OKAY ... SUTURE!


HOFNER FORCEPS.

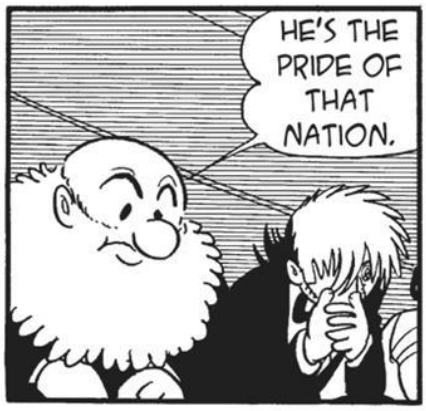
DR. ODD ALWAYS PLAYS MUSIC DURING SURGERY.
HE DOESN'T FIND IT DIS-TRACTING ?

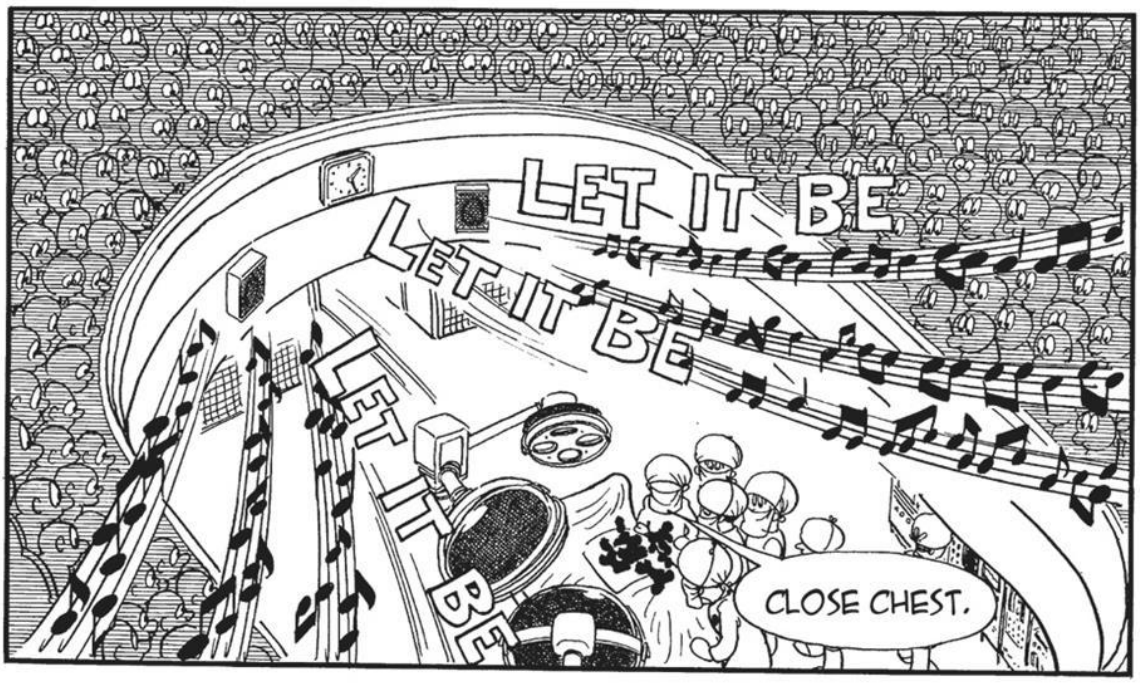

UP UNTIL THIS POINT WE'VE HEWED TO THE CUSTOMARY METHOD. NOW WATCH CLOSELY.

LET IT BE, LET IT BE
REVERSE IT HERE...
WHISPER WORDS
HE LIVES UP TO HIS REPUTATION. WELL DONE, WELL DONE.
HE'S INCREDIBLE!
AMAZING! HE'S THE BEST IN THE WORLD!
NATION D IS SECRETIVE, SO IT'S RARE TO HAVE THE DOCTOR HIMSELF OPERATE OVERSEAS, EVEN THOUGH HIS WORK IS KNOWN.

COULD I AT ALL, WITH LOUD MUSIC.

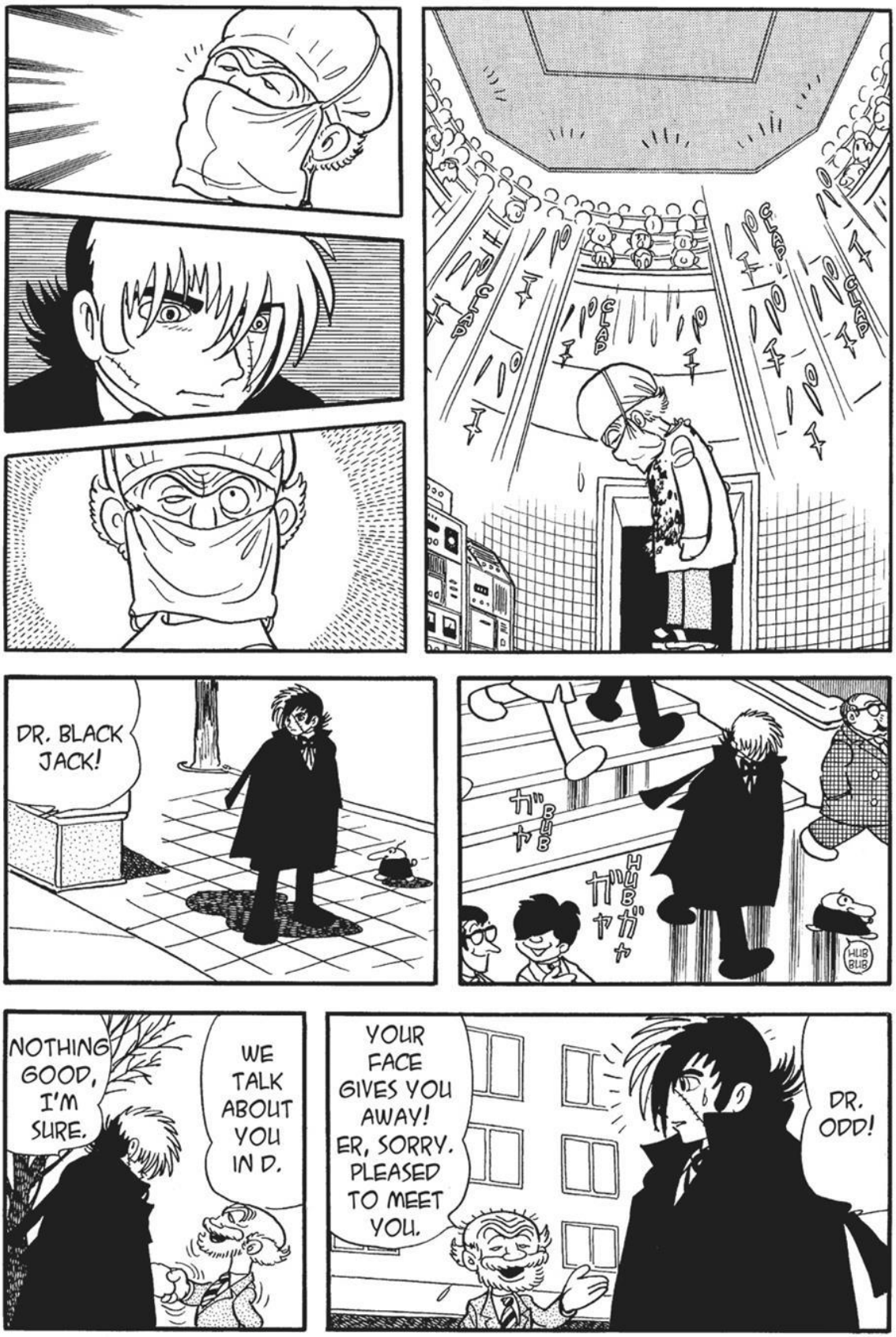
BLACK JACK, DOES HE WORK EVEN FASTER THAN YOU ?

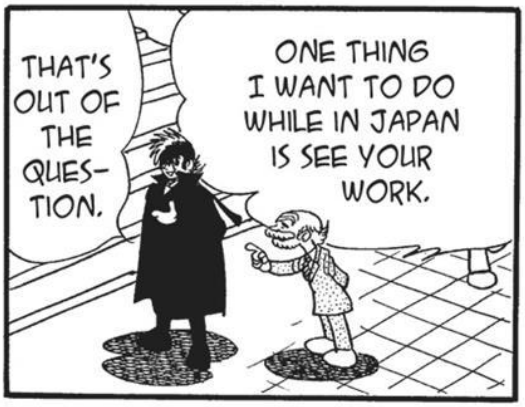

HE'S THE PRIDE OF THAT NATION.

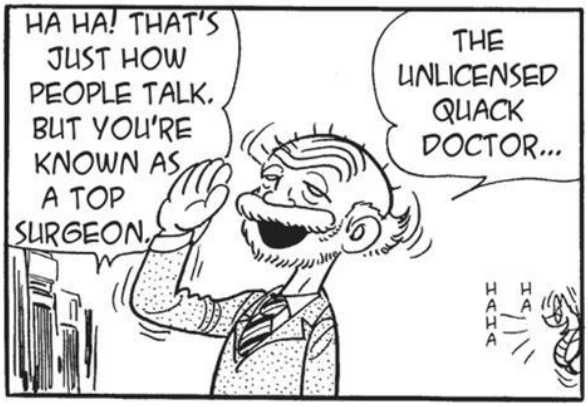

LET IT BE
LET IT BE
LET IT BE
CLOSE CHEST.

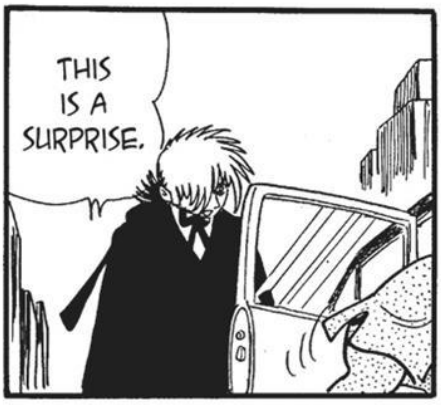
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

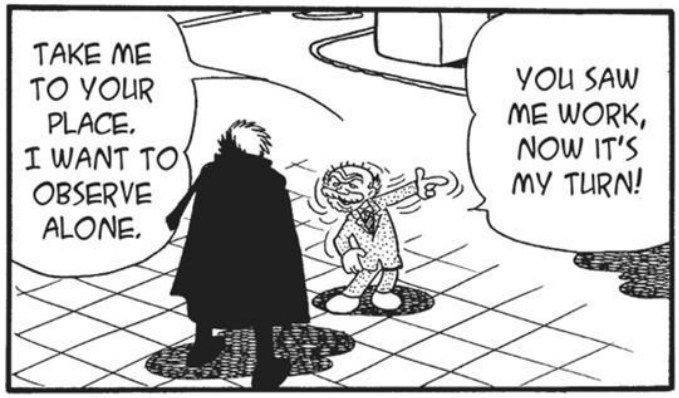
WE'RE DONE.

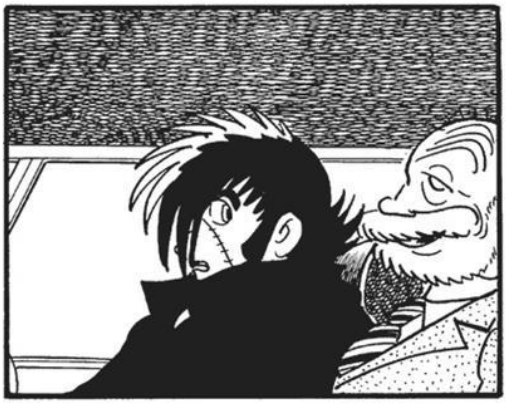

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
DR. BLACK JACK!
ガヤ
BUB
ガヤ
HUB
BUB
HUB BUB
NOTHING GOOD, I'M SURE.
WE TALK ABOUT YOU IN D.
YOUR FACE GIVES YOU AWAY! ER, SORRY. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
DR. ODD!


THAT'S OUT OF THE QUES-TION.
ONE THING I WANT TO DO WHILE IN JAPAN IS SEE YOUR WORK.


HA HA! THAT'S JUST HOW PEOPLE TALK. BUT YOU'RE KNOWN AS A TOP SURGEON.
THE UNLICENSED QUACK DOCTOR...
HAHA
HA

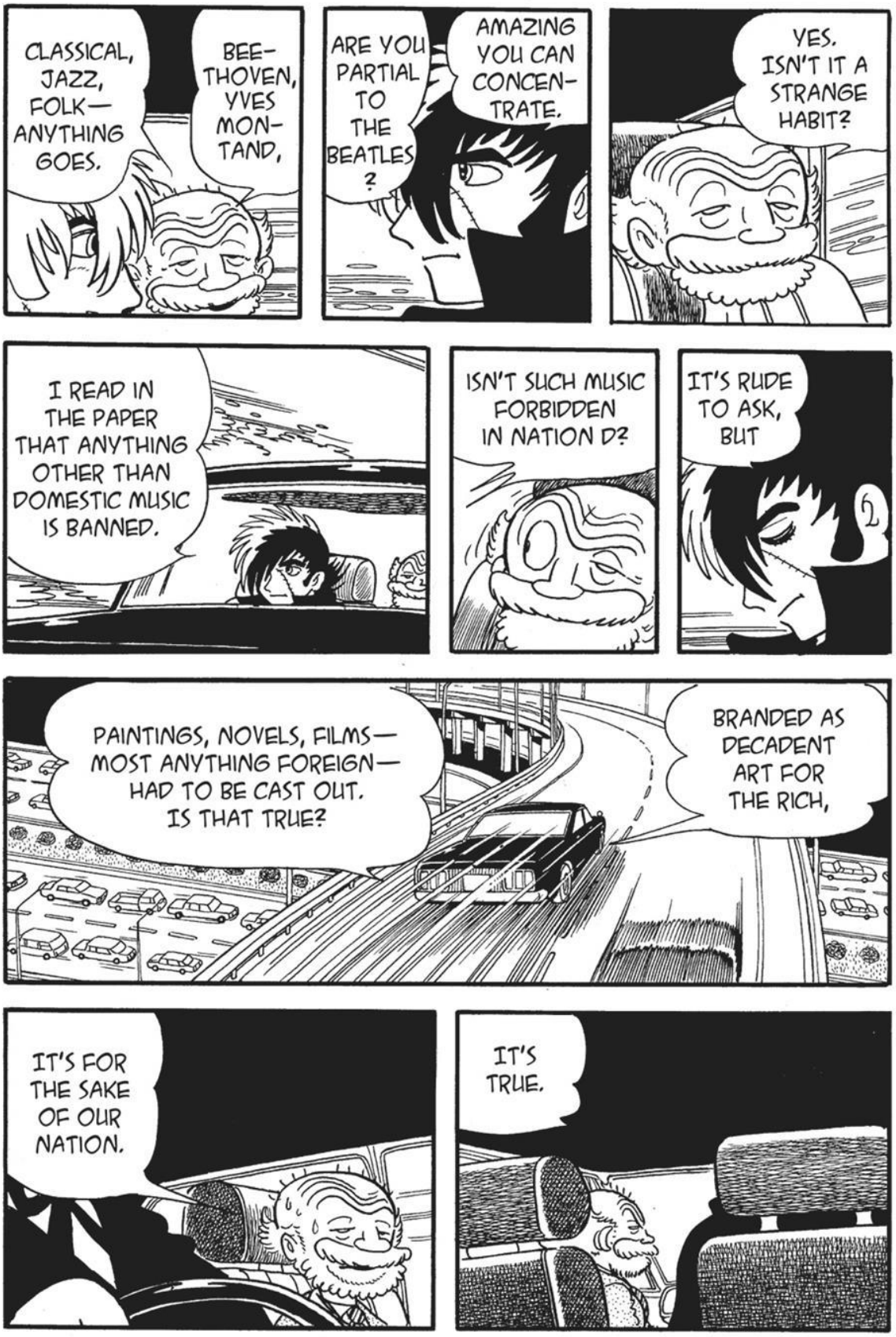

THIS IS A SURPRISE.


TAKE ME TO YOUR PLACE. I WANT TO OBSERVE ALONE.
YOU SAW ME WORK, NOW IT'S MY TURN!



DO YOU ALWAYS WORK WITH MUSIC?

I DO, IN FACT. I'VE THOROUGHLY RESEARCHED YOU.
IT'S NOT SOME FINE HOSPITAL, YOU KNOW.

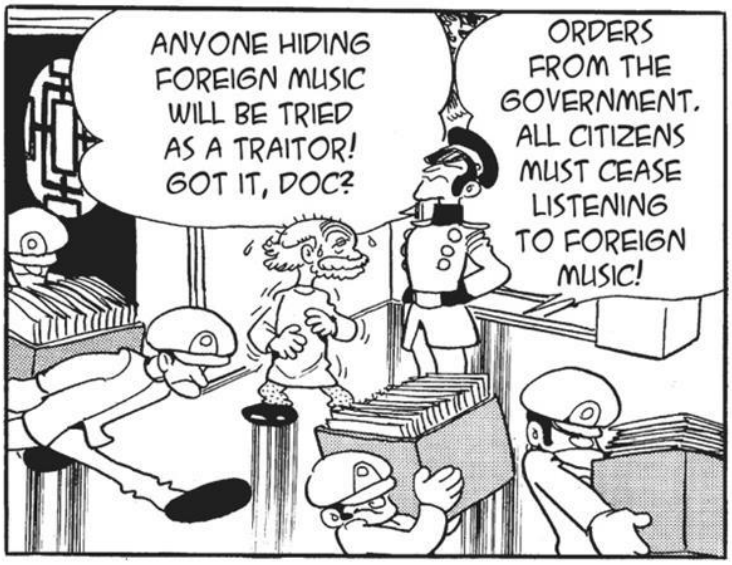

CLASSICAL, JAZZ, FOLK— ANYTHING GOES.
BEE-THOVEN, YVES MON-TAND,
ARE YOU PARTIAL TO THE BEATLES?
AMAZING YOU CAN CONCEN-TRATE.
YES. ISN'T IT A STRANGE HABIT?
I READ IN THE PAPER THAT ANYTHING OTHER THAN DOMESTIC MUSIC IS BANNED.
ISN'T SUCH MUSIC FORBIDDEN IN NATION D?
IT'S RUDE TO ASK, BUT
PAINTINGS, NOVELS, FILMS— MOST ANYTHING FOREIGN— HAD TO BE CAST OUT. IS THAT TRUE?
BRANDED AS DECADENT ART FOR THE RICH,
IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF OUR NATION.
IT'S TRUE.

IT'LL BENEFIT MY COUNTRY.
SO WHY DO YOU WANT TO WATCH ME WORK?
WORSHIP ANYTHING FOREIGN, THAT'S WHY.
WE CAN'T HAVE OUR CITIZENS
IT WAS MY ONE PLEASURE BETWEEN WORK.
I'VE LOVED MUSIC SINCE I WAS A KID.
...
THE NOTICE CAME A FEW YEARS AGO.
FOR ME, NONE COULD BE WORSE ...
I BOUGHT ALL THE FOREIGN RECORDS I COULD.
EVEN AFTER THE REVOLUTION AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT
OSANU
SEI

NO! THEY'RE MY TREASURE! YOU CAN'T!

DR. ODD! WE'RE SEIZING ALL YOUR RECORDS!

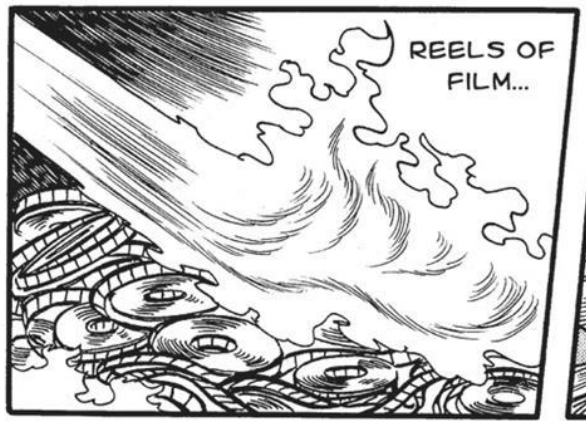
WHAT'S WRONG WITH LISTENING TO MUSIC?


ANYONE HIDING FOREIGN MUSIC WILL BE TRIED AS A TRAITOR! GOT IT, DOC?
ORDERS FROM THE GOVERNMENT. ALL CITIZENS MUST CEASE LISTENING TO FOREIGN MUSIC!

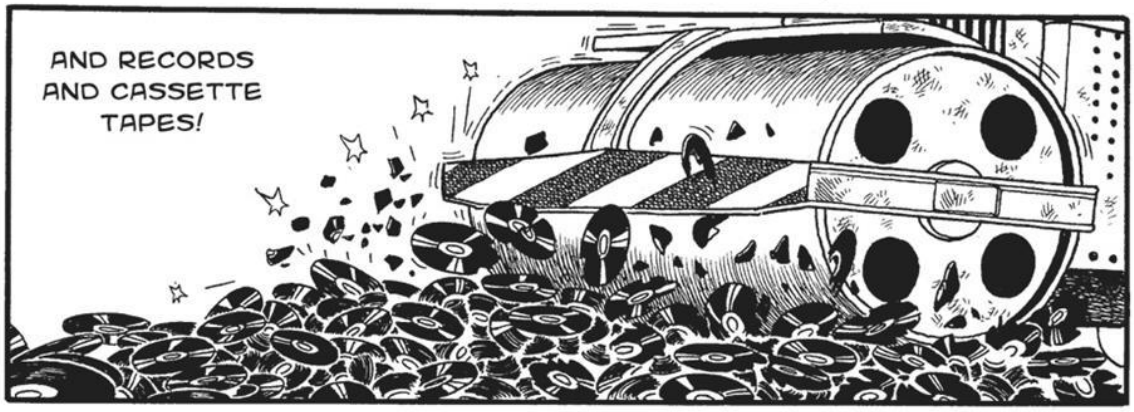
KLAK
KRASH
THIS IS INSANE !!

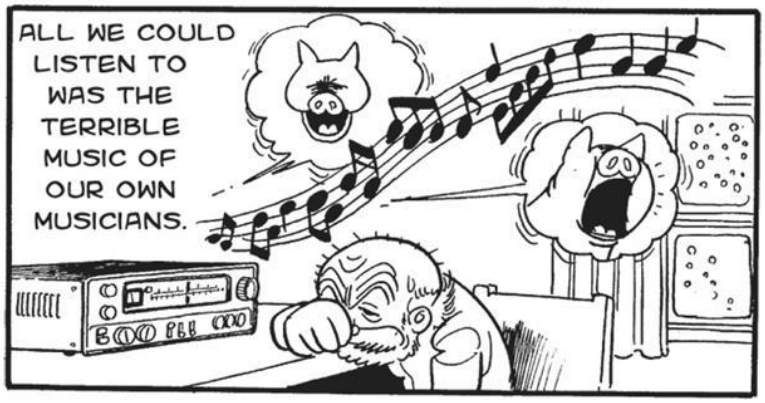
KRASH

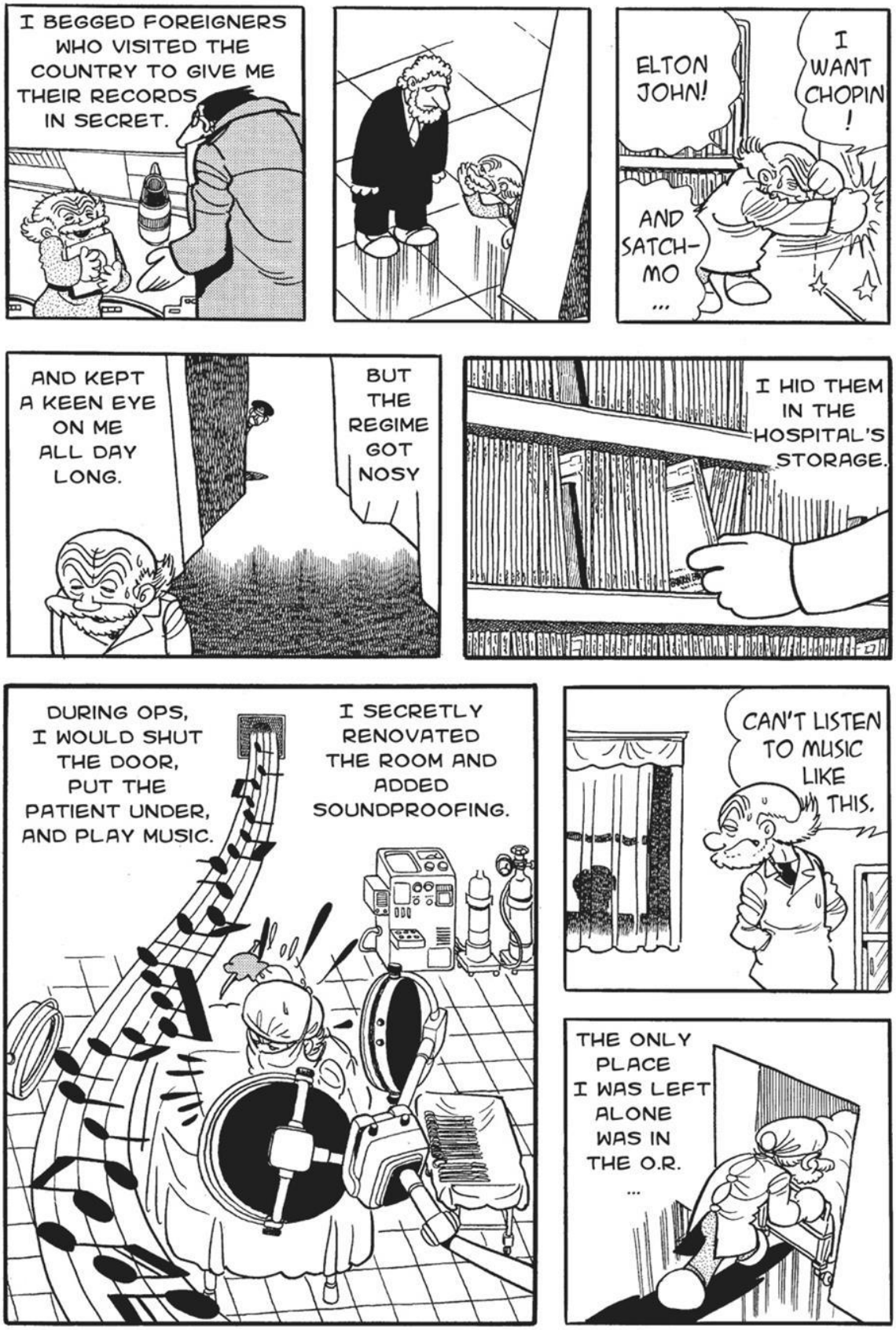
SMASH


REELS OF FILM...

THEY BURNED BOOKS


AND RECORDS AND CASSETTE TAPES!


ALL WE COULD LISTEN TO WAS THE TERRIBLE MUSIC OF OUR OWN MUSICIANS.


I BEGGED FOREIGNERS WHO VISITED THE COUNTRY TO GIVE ME THEIR RECORDS IN SECRET.
ELTON JOHN!
I WANT CHOPIN!
AND SATCH-MO ...
AND KEPT A KEEN EYE ON ME ALL DAY LONG.
BUT THE REGIME GOT NOSY
I HID THEM IN THE HOSPITAL'S STORAGE.
DURING OPS, I WOULD SHUT THE DOOR, PUT THE PATIENT UNDER, AND PLAY MUSIC.
I SECRETLY RENOVATED THE ROOM AND ADDED SOUNDPROOFING.
CAN'T LISTEN TO MUSIC LIKE THIS.
THE ONLY PLACE I WAS LEFT ALONE WAS IN THE O.R. ...

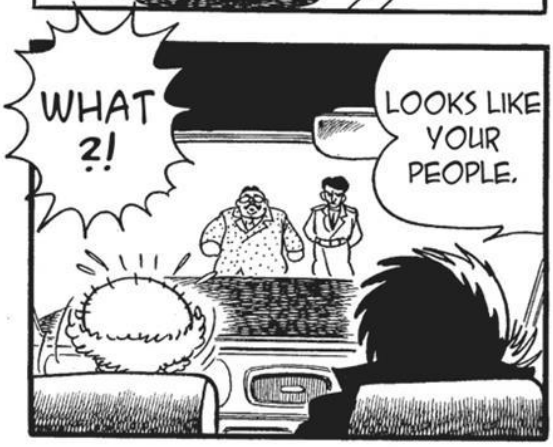
BUT HUMANS ARE VERY ADAPTABLE. NOW I CAN'T OPERATE WITHOUT MUSIC PLAYING.
AT FIRST I WAS SO ENTRANCED I COULDN'T OPERATE.

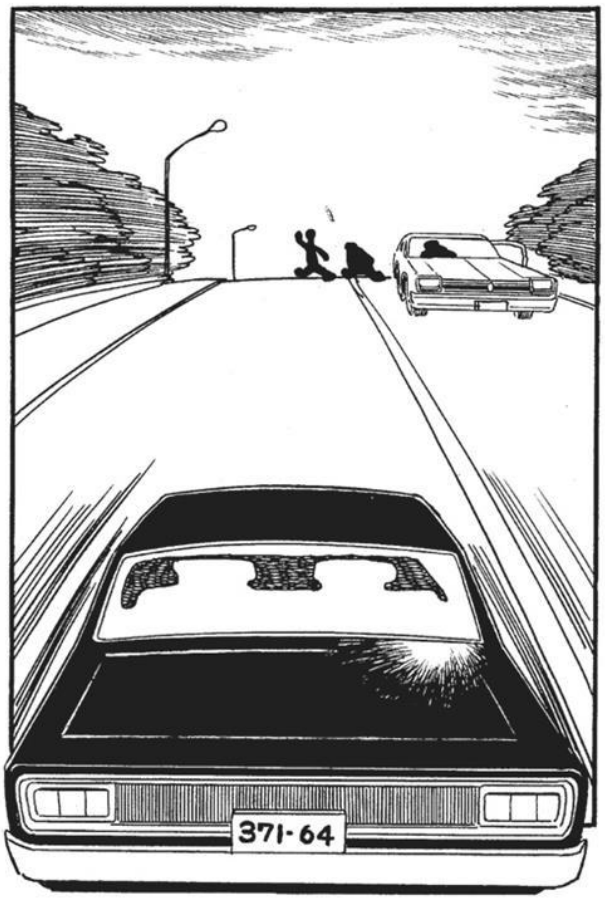
DON'T YOU THINK EVERYBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO ENJOY CUL-TURE ?
SAY, DOC-TOR

...

PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.

STOP!


WHAT ?!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR PEOPLE.


371-64

YOU'RE SUSPECTED OF TREASON!
WE'RE BRINGING YOU HOME.

WHAT FOR? I'M BUSY.
COME WITH US, DR. ODD.

YOUR O.R., TOO. YOU'LL BE UNDER HOUSE ARREST, AS A TRAITOR.
WE SEARCHED YOUR HOSPITAL WHILE YOU WERE GONE. WE FOUND YOUR RECORDS!

LEMME GO!!

I'M NOT GOING BACK! I'M FREE! MUSIC IS MY LIFE!

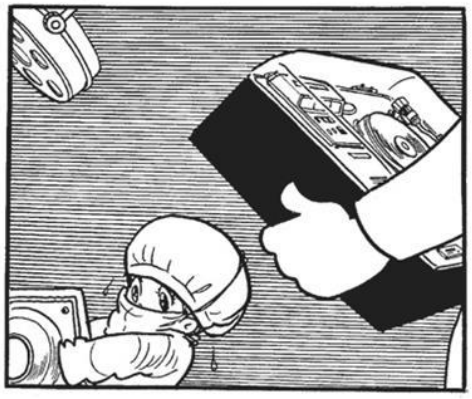
HELP ME, DR. BLACK JACK!
NO!!
AH!

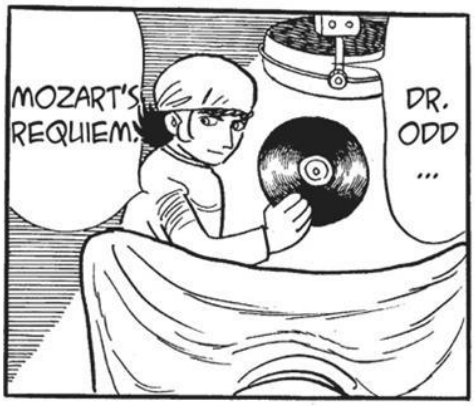
I DON'T THINK HE'LL MAKE IT...
HEART ATTACK !
Y-YOU HAVE A P-PATIENT RIGHT HERE...
Y-YOU WERE... SUPPOSED TO... S-SHOW ME HOW YOU WORK...
D... DOCTOR !!
DON'T MESS WITH ME! I'M NOW HIS PHYSICIAN!
WE'LL TAKE HIM TO MY HOUSE.
STAY AWAY.
NO. LEAVE THIS TO US.

BRING THE RECORD PLAYER HERE.
ACCHOM BURKE

PINOKO!!

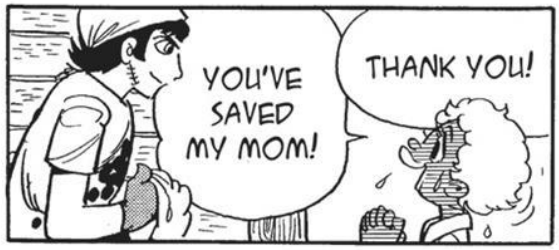
LIKELY I'M TOO LATE.




MOZART'S REQUIEM!
DR. ODD ...

A CLOCK IN THE DARK

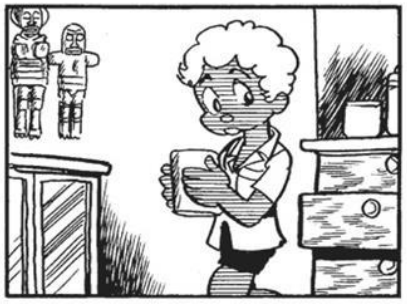
ARE ROOTS' FOLKS RICH OR WHAT ?
YEAH, BUT HE CHARGES A LOT OF MONEY.
IS THAT GUY REALLY A GREAT DOCTOR?


YOU'VE SAVED MY MOM!
THANK YOU!

GIVE ME WHAT YOU NOW SHOWED ME BEFORE. ...

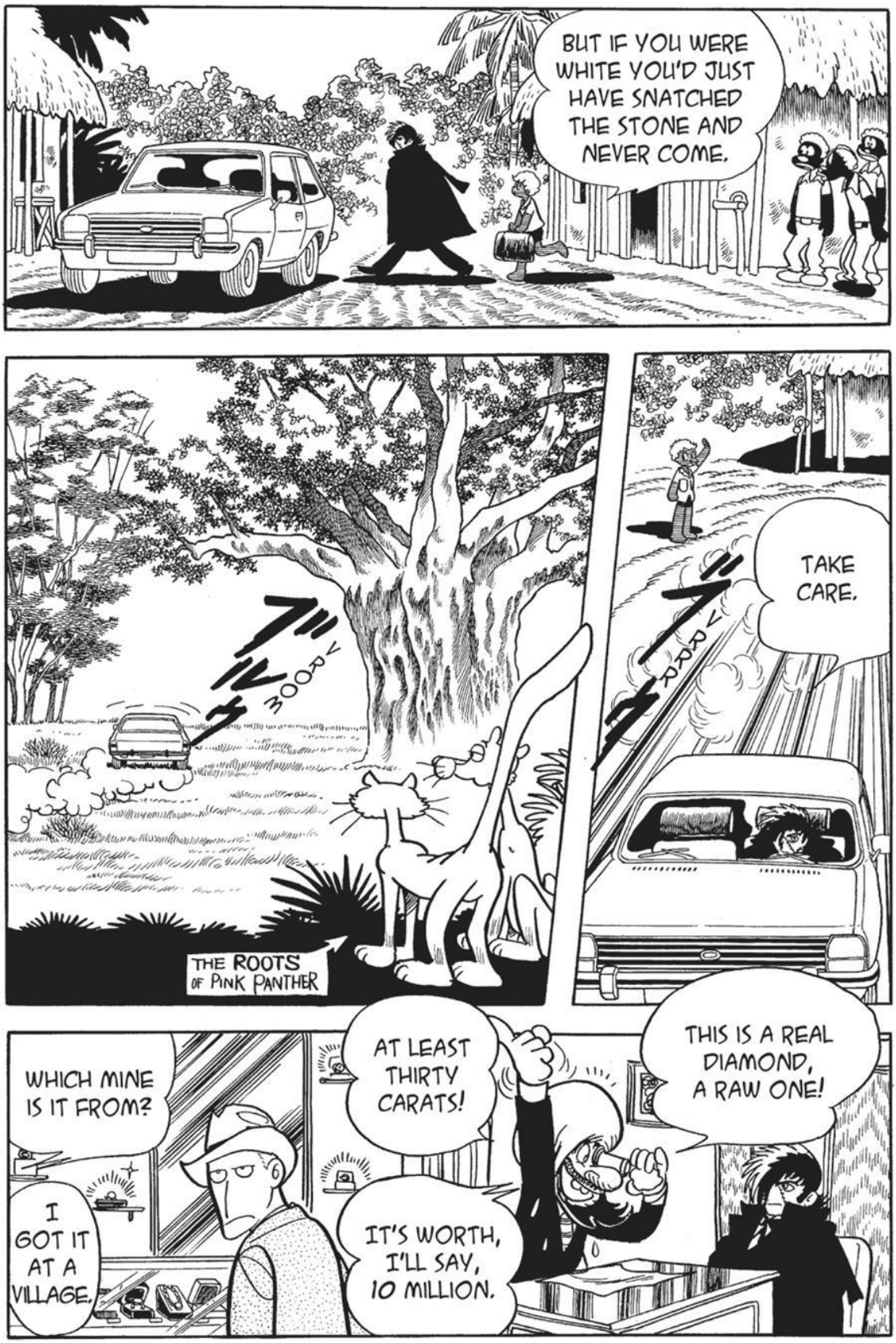
DONE.

IT WILL? PHEW.
WILL THIS COVER YOUR FEE?



I DON'T KNOW IF I'D HAVE OPERATED WITHOUT SEEING THAT FIRST.
A SHAFT MINE DEEP IN THE HILLS.

WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
I WAS WORRIED. IT'S MY TREASURE.


BUT IF YOU WERE WHITE YOU'D JUST HAVE SNATCHED THE STONE AND NEVER COME.
THE ROOTS OF PINK PANTHER
TAKE CARE.
WHICH MINE IS IT FROM?
I GOT IT AT A VILLAGE.
AT LEAST THIRTY CARATS!
IT'S WORTH, I'LL SAY, 10 MILLION.
THIS IS A REAL DIAMOND, A RAW ONE!

IT'S NOT FROM A BLACK VILLAGE, IS IT?

HEY PAL, TELL ME WHICH VILLAGE YOU GOT THAT DIAMOND FROM.

JEWE

OUTTA MY WAY.
THEY MUST'VE STOLEN IT FROM A MINE.
NO WAY THEY'D HAVE ACCESS TO SUCH A VEIN.

TAKE ME THERE, PAL.

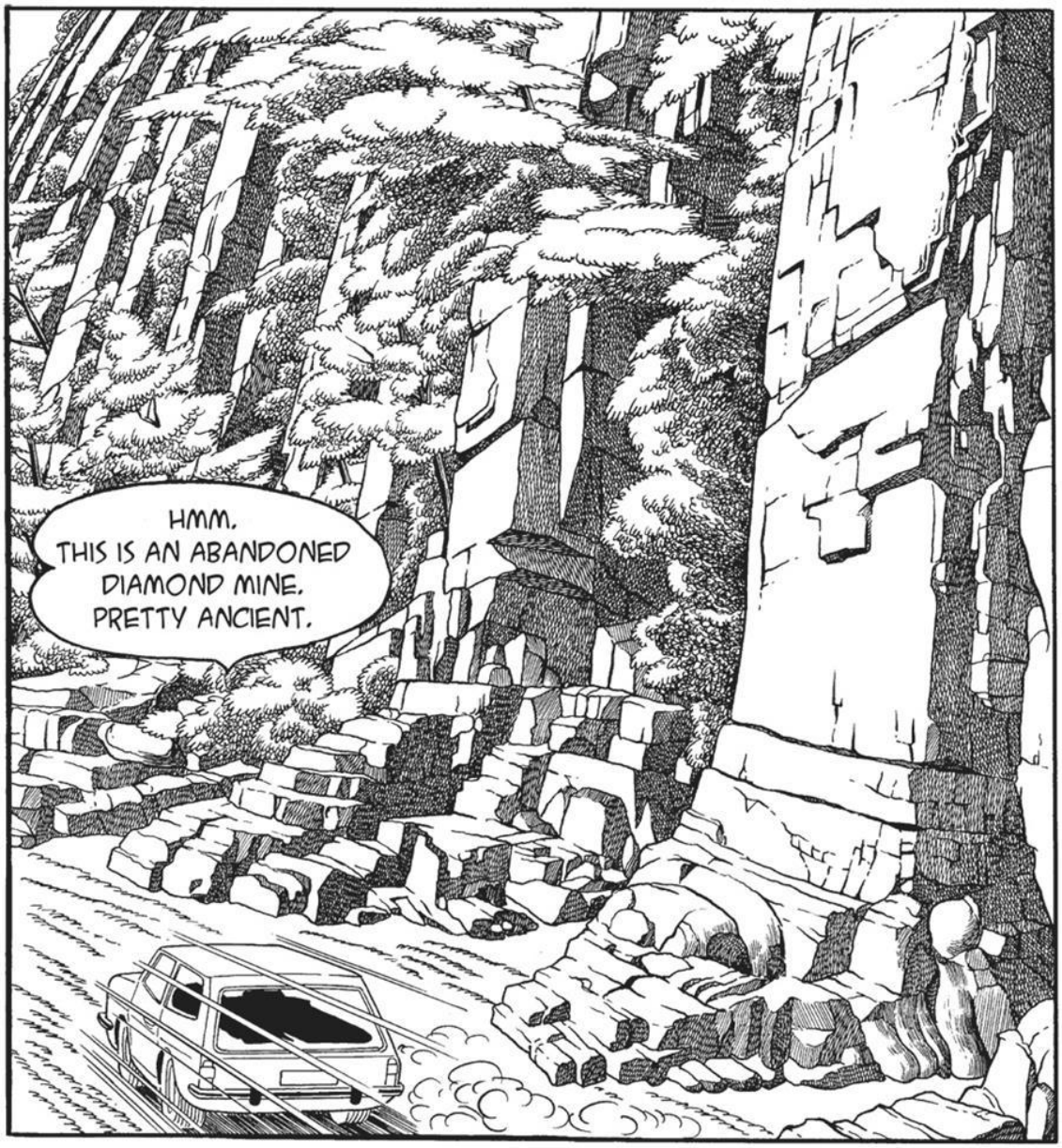
OH, YOU WANNA PLAY HARD TO GET?

RUN, KID!

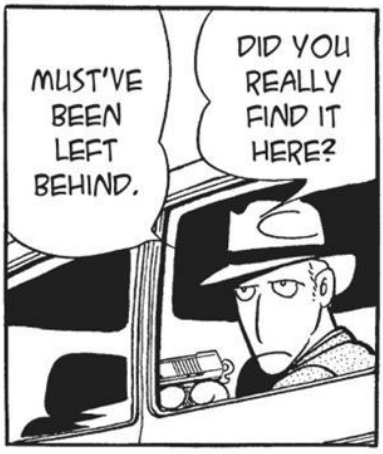
DUPE ME AND YOU'LL NEED A DOC YOUR-SELF.

HEY, DOCTOR! YOU'RE BACK!

BLAM
HE'LL BLEED OUT IF HE WALKS TOO FAR.
MAKE HIM BRING US TO WHERE HE GOT THE STONE.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE COMING, TOO!
FESS UP! BEFORE IT GETS DARK!
IF HE FAINTS, JUST SLAP HIM AWAKE.


HMM.
THIS IS AN ABANDONED DIAMOND MINE.
PRETTY ANCIENT.

GO ON, GO WHERE YOU FOUND IT.

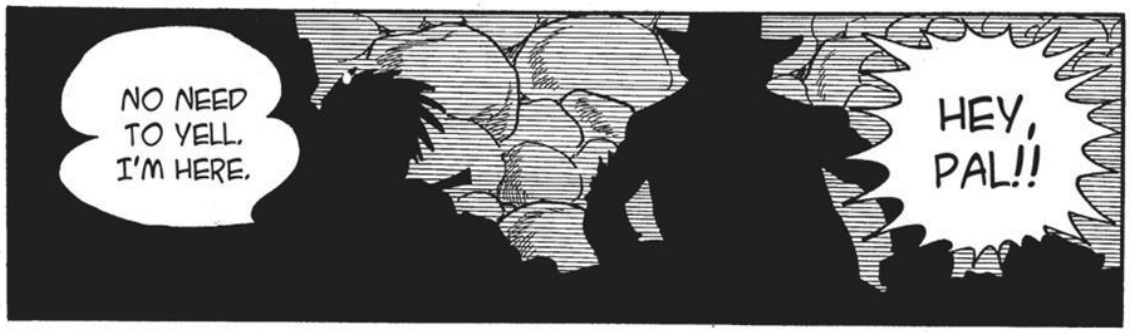

DID YOU REALLY FIND IT HERE?
MUST'VE BEEN LEFT BEHIND.

BLAM
BLAM
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
DON'T EVEN THINK OF RUNNING AWAY.
KRASH
KRASH

ポチャー
ポチャー
ポチャー
PITTER

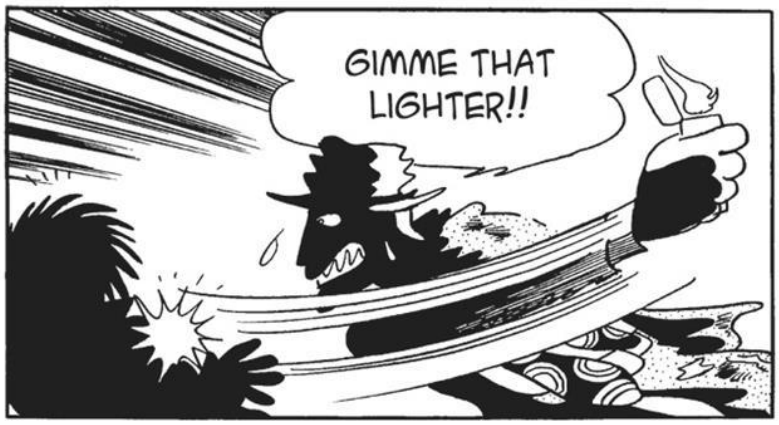
WHATTA FIASCO! A COLLAPSE!
DAMN IT...
ポチャー
ポチャー
ポチャー
PATTER

YES ...
YOU HERE, BOY?
HEY PAL, WHERE ARE YOU?

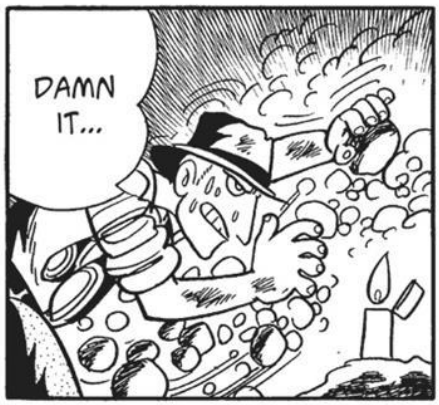

NO NEED TO YELL. I'M HERE.
HEY, PAL!!

ドーン
カミーン

ゴゴゴ
RUMBLE


GIMME THAT LIGHTER!!

IT'S NEARLY OUT OF FLUID.
DON'T USE IT LONG.

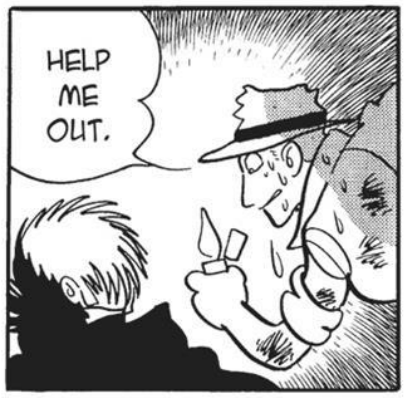

DAMN IT...

THE ONLY WAY WE COULD GO IS FURTHER IN!
WHAT?! THE FRONT AND BOTH SIDES ARE CAVED IN!

WE GOTTA FIND A WAY OUTTA HERE, QUICK!
SHUT UP!

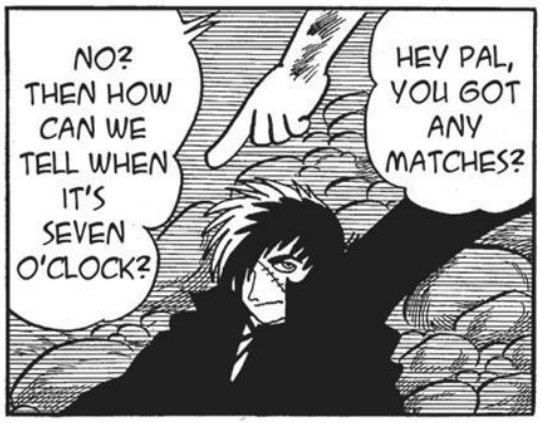
AH... UH, IT'S GOING OUT...

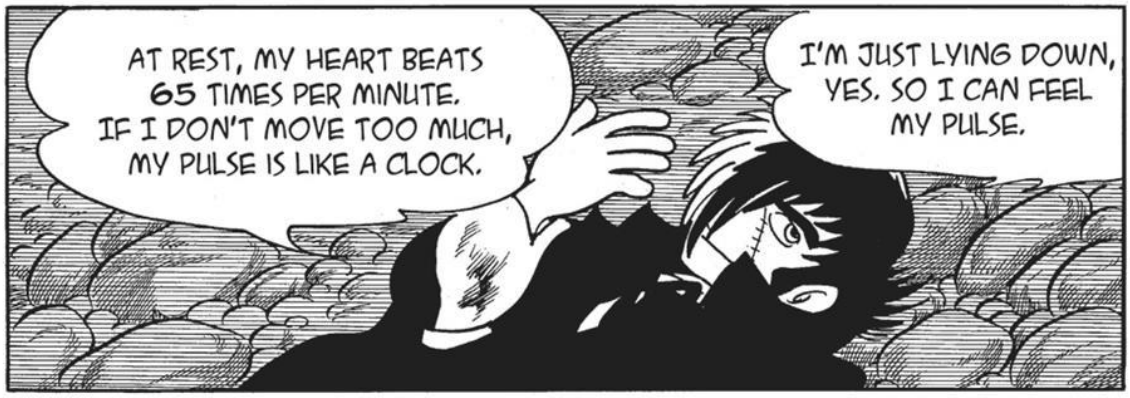
I SAID HELP ME!


HELP ME OUT.

IT'S OUT!!
KID, ANYONE LIVE NEAR HERE?
NO. BUT HUNTERS PASS BY AT EXACTLY 7 A.M. EVERY DAY.
HEY!! CAN ANYONE HEAR ME? HELP ME! HEELP!
HOW CAN WE TELL TIME IN THIS DARKNESS? HOW CAN WE READ OUR WATCHES?!
SEVEN O'CLOCK?! WAIT!!
AT 7? 7 A.M.? I SEE, I SEE.
HUNT-ERS ?

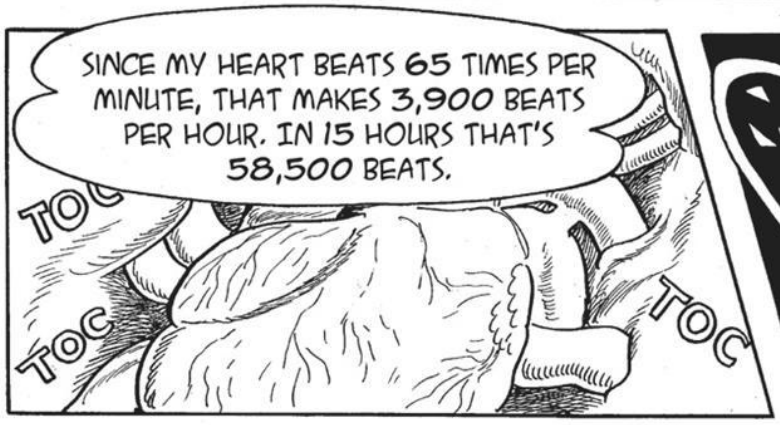
DON'T BE JUST LYING DOWN NOW!
PAL!

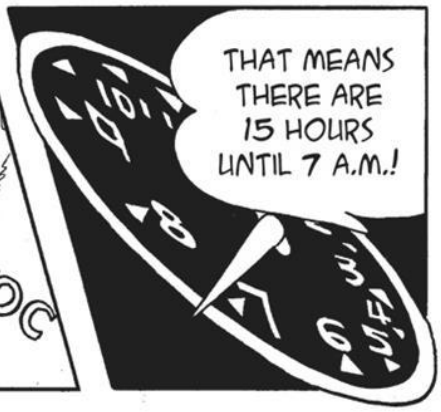

NO? THEN HOW CAN WE TELL WHEN IT'S SEVEN O'CLOCK?
HEY PAL, YOU GOT ANY MATCHES?

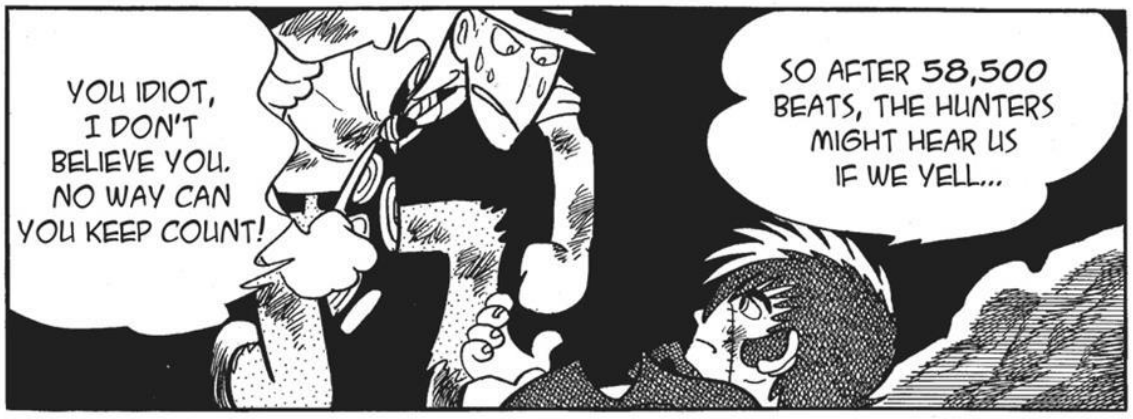

AT REST, MY HEART BEATS 65 TIMES PER MINUTE. IF I DON'T MOVE TOO MUCH, MY PULSE IS LIKE A CLOCK.
I'M JUST LYING DOWN, YES. SO I CAN FEEL MY PULSE.

WE ARRIVED AT 3 P.M. THE MINE CAVED IN AT 3:10. IT MUST BE AROUND 4 P.M. NOW.

WHAT?! YOU'RE GONNA COUNT HEARTBEATS UNTIL MORNING?


SINCE MY HEART BEATS 65 TIMES PER MINUTE, THAT MAKES 3,900 BEATS PER HOUR. IN 15 HOURS THAT'S 58,500 BEATS.
TOC
TOC
TOC


THAT MEANS THERE ARE 15 HOURS UNTIL 7 A.M.!


YOU IDIOT, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU. NO WAY CAN YOU KEEP COUNT!
SO AFTER 58,500 BEATS, THE HUNTERS MIGHT HEAR US IF WE YELL...

NO! WE GOTTA CALL FOR HELP TOGETHER!
YOU TOO, KID.

STOP WANDERING AROUND AND LIE DOWN. BEST TO SAVE ENERGY.
I'VE DONE IT OFTEN.

...

WHY, YOU LITTLE...

DON'T JUST SIT THERE, YELL!
LISTEN, BOY, THIS IS AN ORDER FROM A WHITE MAN. YOU GOTTA YELL FOR HELP WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.

YELL!
SCREAM !
SHUT UP, YOU YELLOW JAPANESE MONKEY.
LEAVE HIM ALONE. HE'S WOUNDED.
DAMN YOU ...
THERE ARE JUST VOICES HERE. AND YOUR THICK GROWL GRATES.
YOU SPEAK OF SKIN COLOR, IN THIS DARKNESS?
...
I'VE GOT 20 SCALPELS IN MY COAT. IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP YOU'LL GET ONE RIGHT IN THE GULLET.
YOU'D BETTER KEEP IT DOWN.

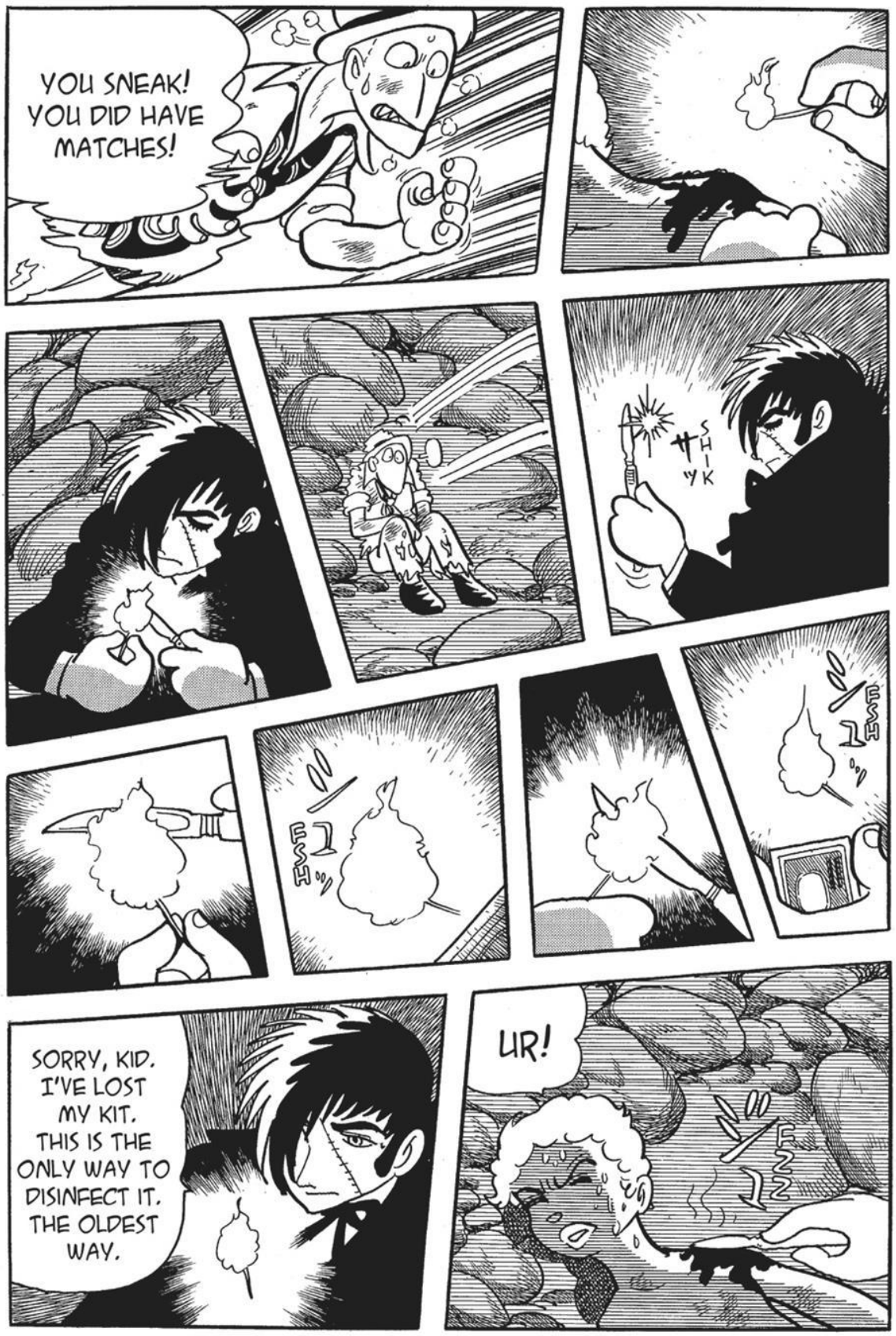
5,221,
5,222,
5,223...

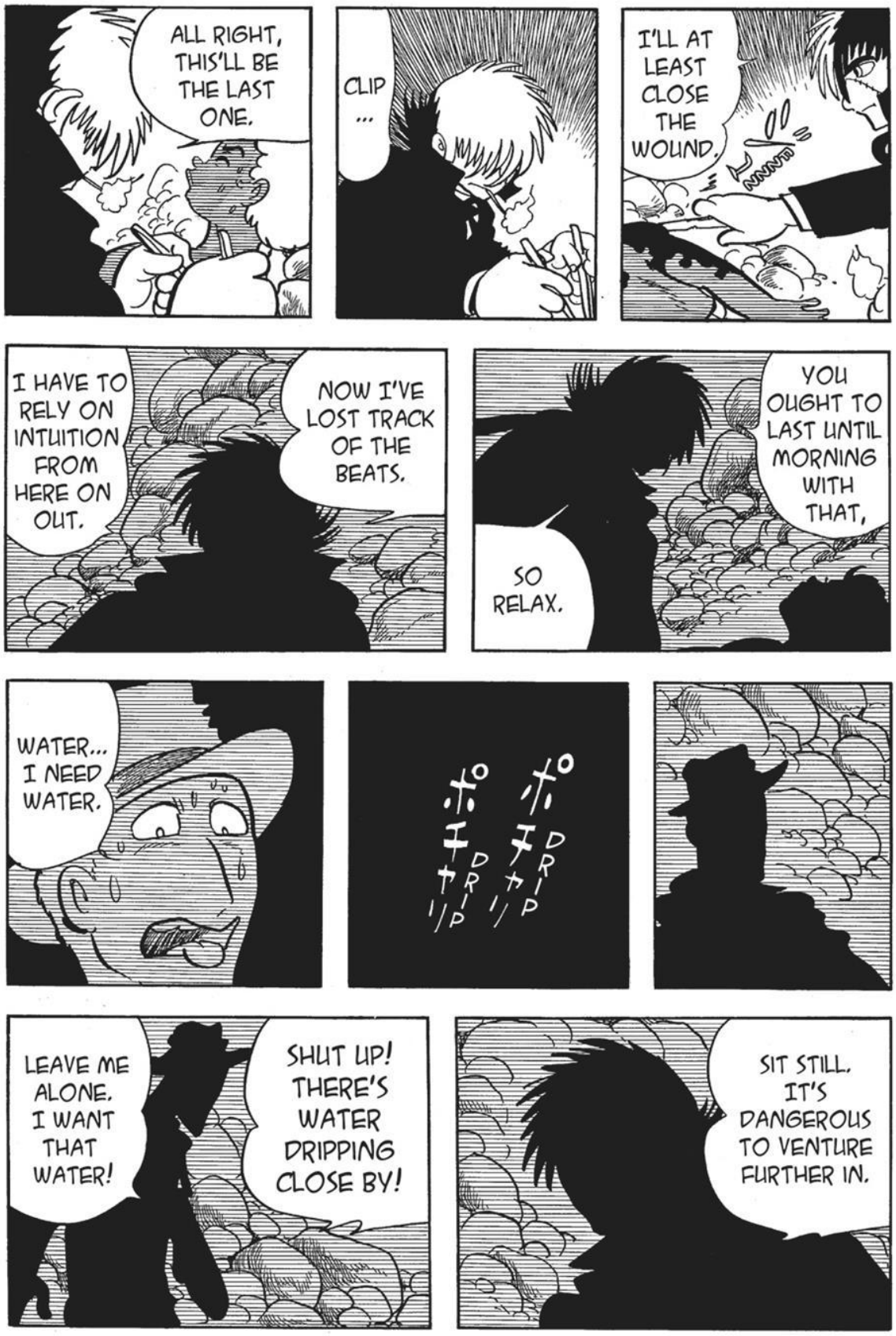
UHH
HEY KID.

UH ...
UNH ...

UNGH !
YOU IN PAIN?
WHAT'S WRONG?

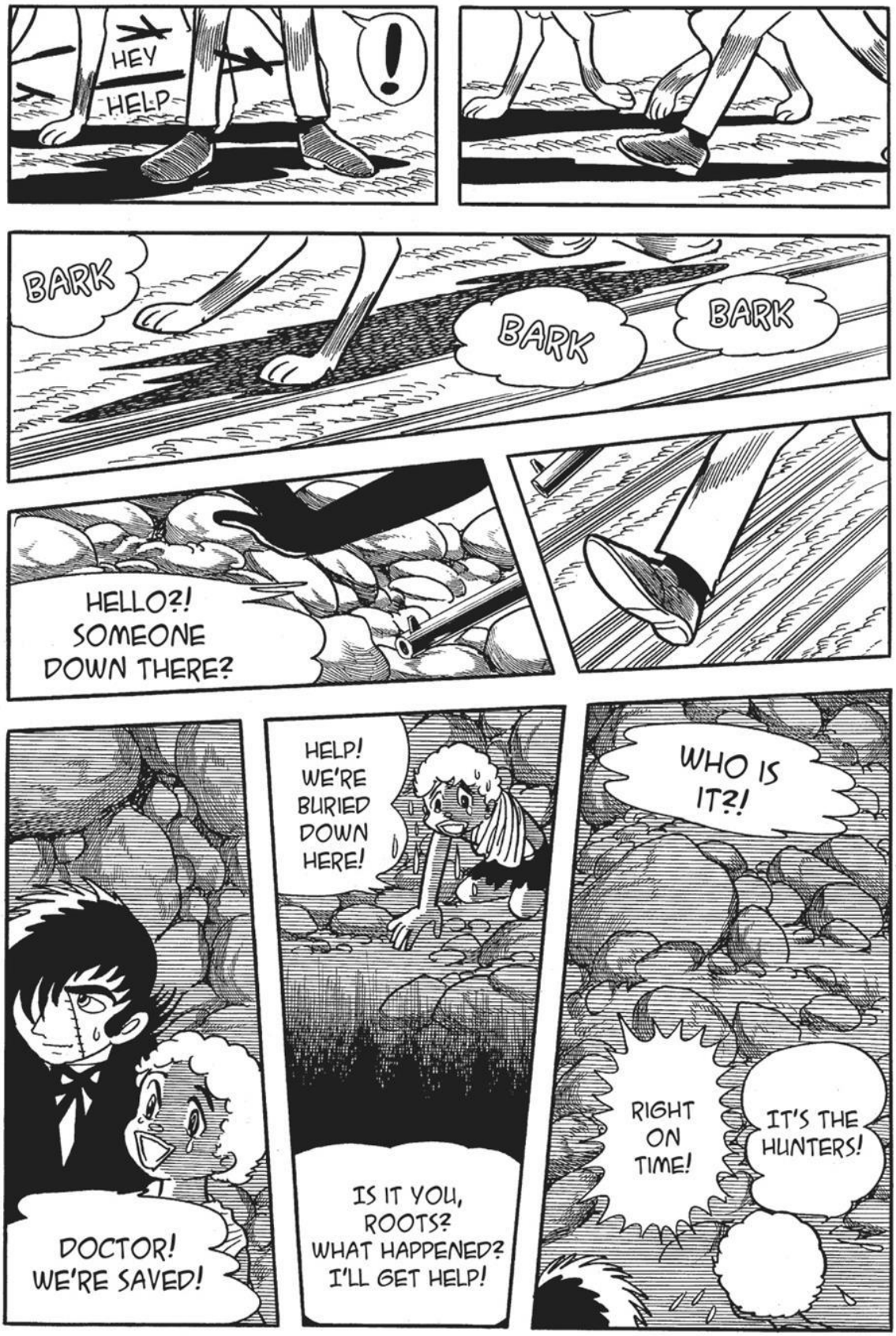
THIS IS BAD. YOU'VE BLED HEAVILY...

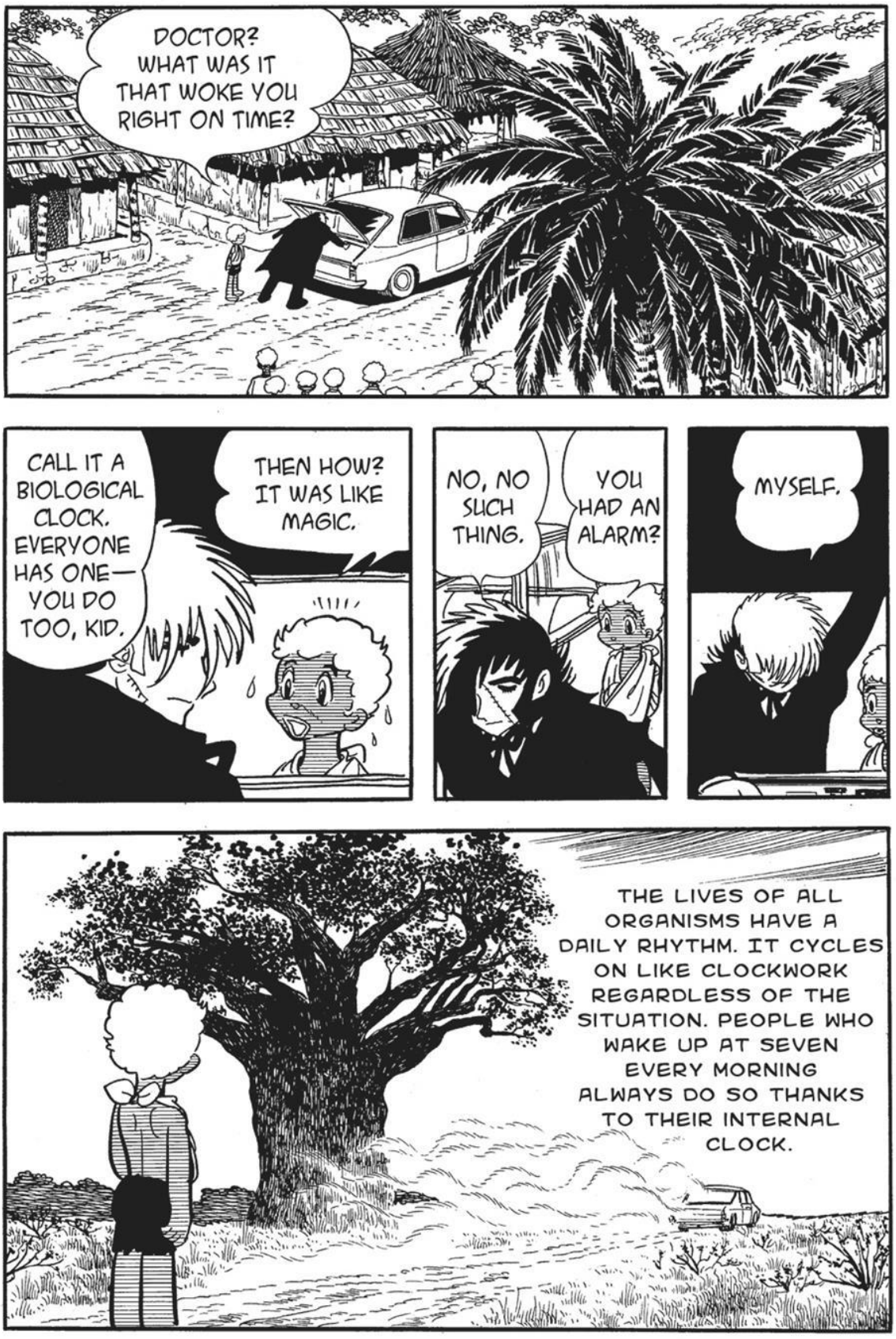

YOU SNEAK! YOU DID HAVE MATCHES!
SHIK
FSH
FSH
FSH
SORRY, KID. I'VE LOST MY KIT. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO DISINFECT IT. THE OLDEST WAY.
UR!
FZZ


ALL RIGHT, THIS'LL BE THE LAST ONE.
CLIP ...
I'LL AT LEAST CLOSE THE WOUND.
I HAVE TO RELY ON INTUITION FROM HERE ON OUT.
NOW I'VE LOST TRACK OF THE BEATS.
YOU OUGHT TO LAST UNTIL MORNING WITH THAT,
SO RELAX.
WATER... I NEED WATER.
DRIP
DRIP
LEAVE ME ALONE. I WANT THAT WATER!
SHUT UP! THERE'S WATER DRIPPING CLOSE BY!
SIT STILL. IT'S DANGEROUS TO VENTURE FURTHER IN.

ポチャリ DRIP
AS YOU WISH ...
ポチャリ DRIP ポチャリ DRIP
SILENCE
FOOL.
ポチャリ DRIP ポチャリ DRIP
AAAARGH!
BUT IF WE SLEEP WE'LL LOSE TRACK OF TIME.
LET'S GET SOME SLEEP.
IT'LL WAKE ME AT SEVEN.
...
WHAT WILL?
HUH ?

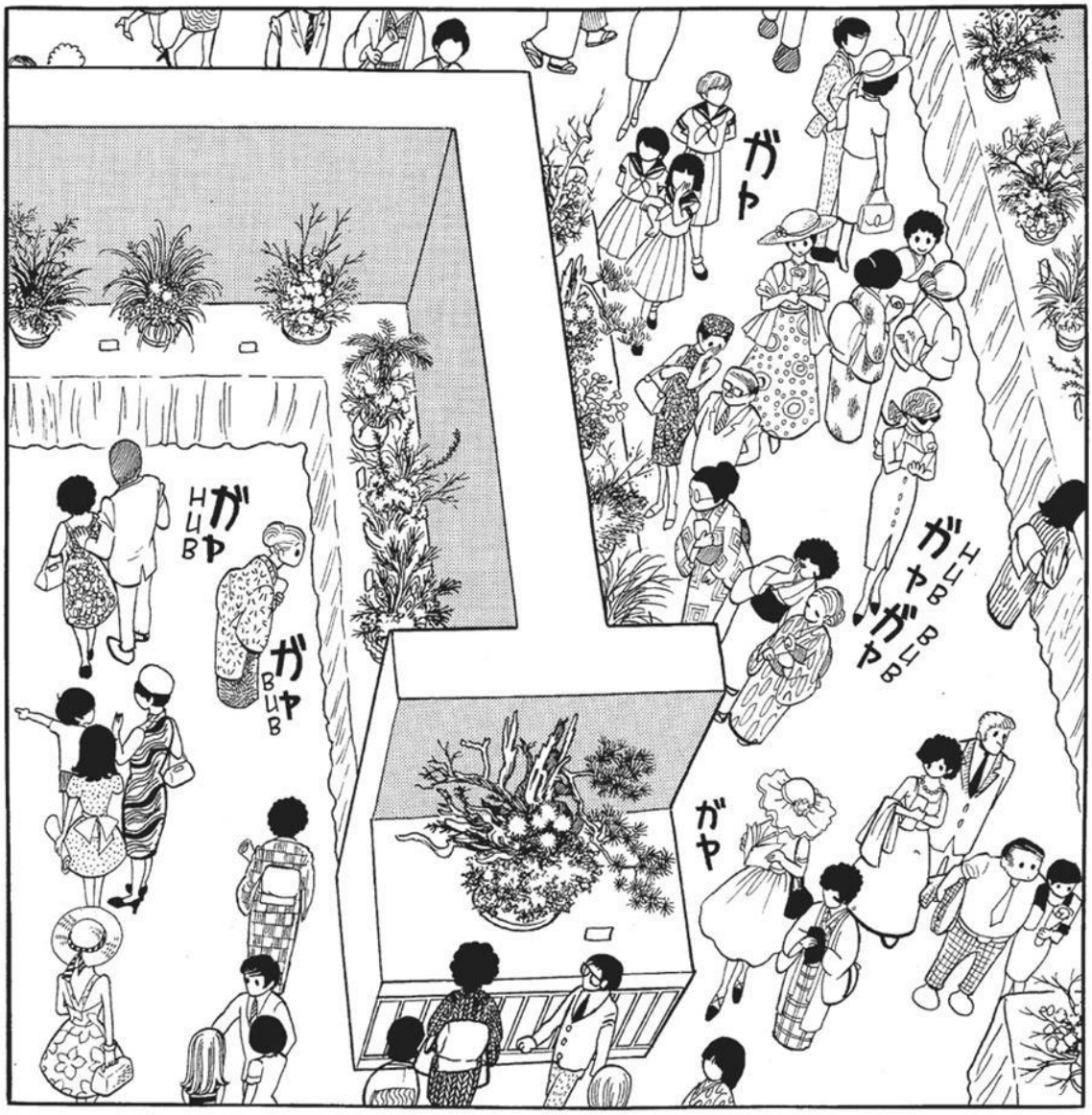
WAKE UP! NOW YELL! ONE, TWO THREE ...
NOW!
JUST YELL AS LOUD AS YOU CAN.
IT'S SEVEN O'CLOCK ?
ポチャリ DRIP
ポチャリ DRIP
ポチャリ DRIP
オーイ HEY
助けてくれー HEEELP
HEY
HELLO


HEY
HELP
!
BARK
BARK
BARK
HELLO?! SOMEONE DOWN THERE?
DOCTOR! WE'RE SAVED!
HELP! WE'RE BURIED DOWN HERE!
IS IT YOU, ROOTS? WHAT HAPPENED? I'LL GET HELP!
WHO IS IT?!
RIGHT ON TIME!
IT'S THE HUNTERS!


DOCTOR? WHAT WAS IT THAT WOKE YOU RIGHT ON TIME?
CALL IT A BIOLOGICAL CLOCK. EVERYONE HAS ONE— YOU DO TOO, KID.
THEN HOW? IT WAS LIKE MAGIC.
NO, NO SUCH THING.
YOU HAD AN ALARM?
MYSELF.
THE LIVES OF ALL ORGANISMS HAVE A DAILY RHYTHM. IT CYCLES ON LIKE CLOCKWORK REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION. PEOPLE WHO WAKE UP AT SEVEN EVERY MORNING ALWAYS DO SO THANKS TO THEIR INTERNAL CLOCK.

AN ARRANGEMENT OF LIFE

31ST ANNUAL
EIKO
SCHOOL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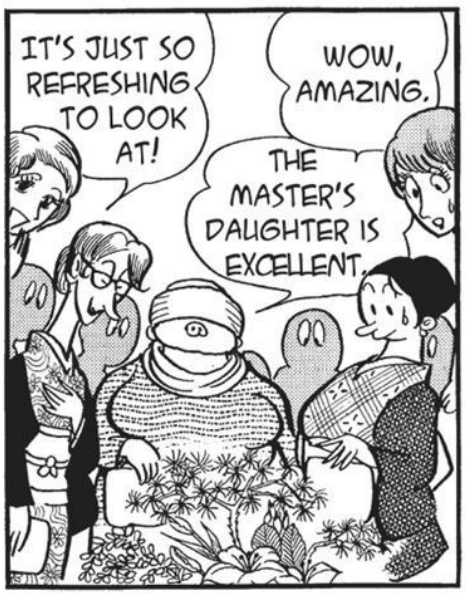
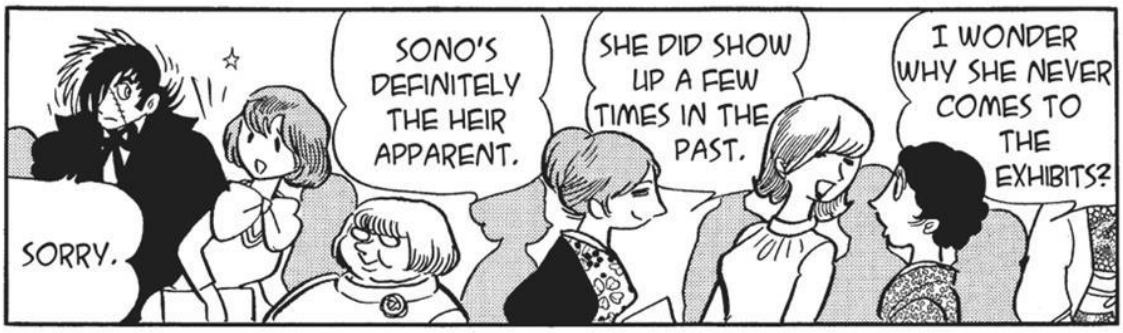
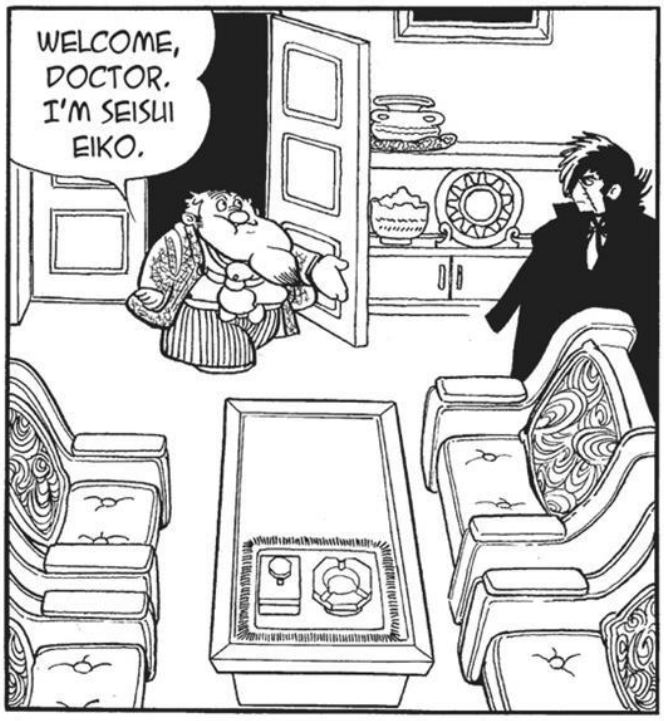
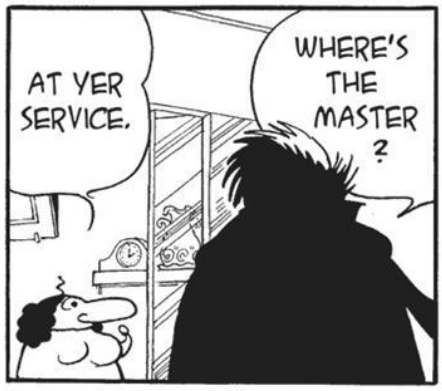
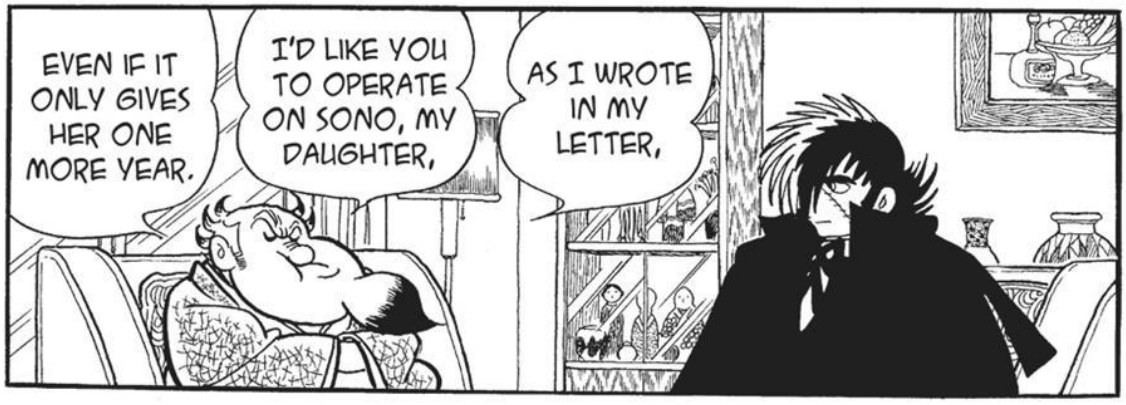








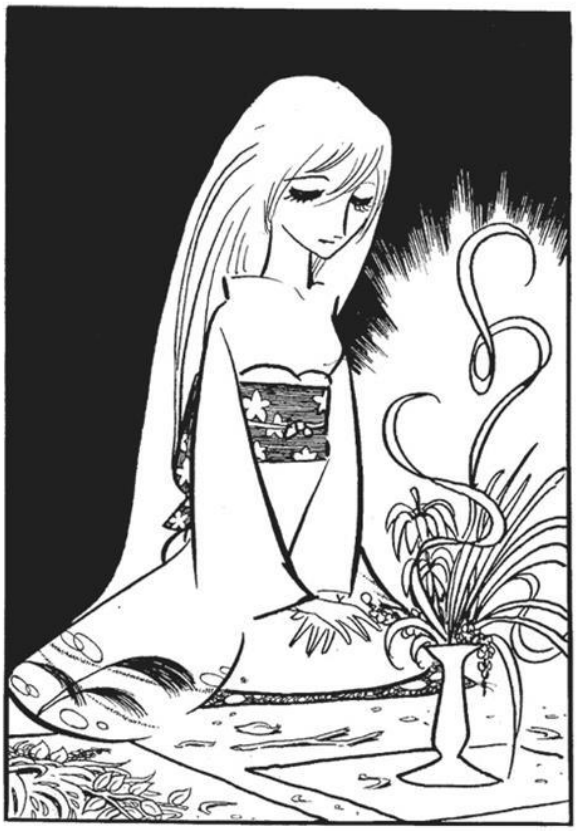
NOTE: THE NAME SEISUI EIKO IS A PUN ON AN IDIOMATIC PHRASE WITH THE SAME PRONUNCIATION. THE ORIGINAL IDIOM (EIKO SEISUI) REFERS TO THE VICISSITUDES OF FORTUNE—THE SENSE THAT A FLOWER'S GLORY IS SHORT-LIVED.

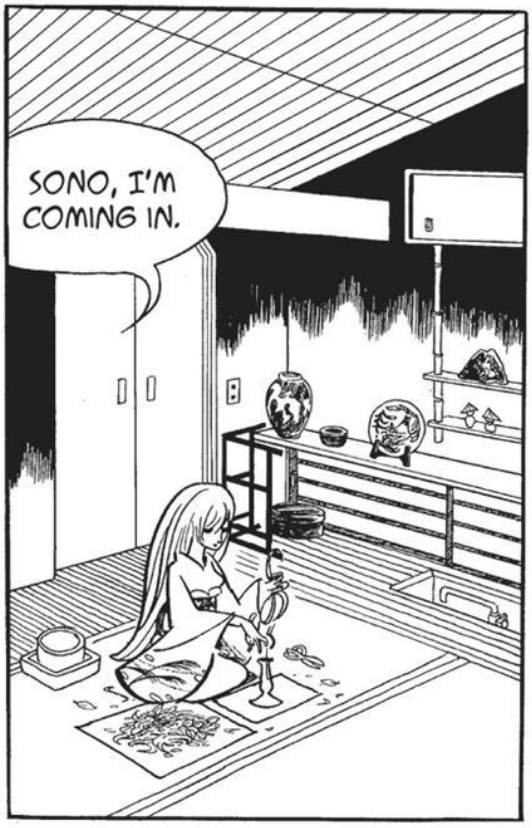

EVEN IF IT ONLY GIVES HER ONE MORE YEAR.
I'D LIKE YOU TO OPERATE ON SONO, MY DAUGHTER,
AS I WROTE IN MY LETTER,

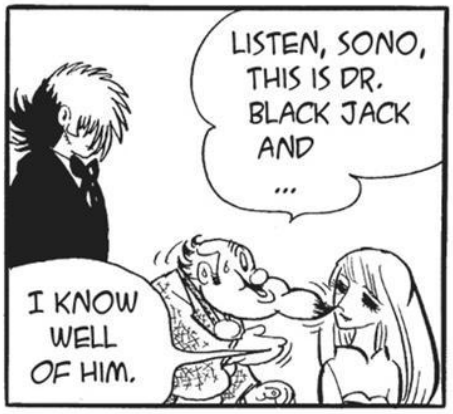
SHE CAN'T HANDLE SUNLIGHT ...
SHE HAS VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT.
IT'S ERYTHRO-POIETIC PORPHYRIA.

SUNLIGHT CAUSES HER TO BREAK OUT IN BLISTERS AND BOILS. SO I'VE KEPT HER INDOORS, OUT OF PEOPLE'S SIGHT.
SERVICE
AT YER

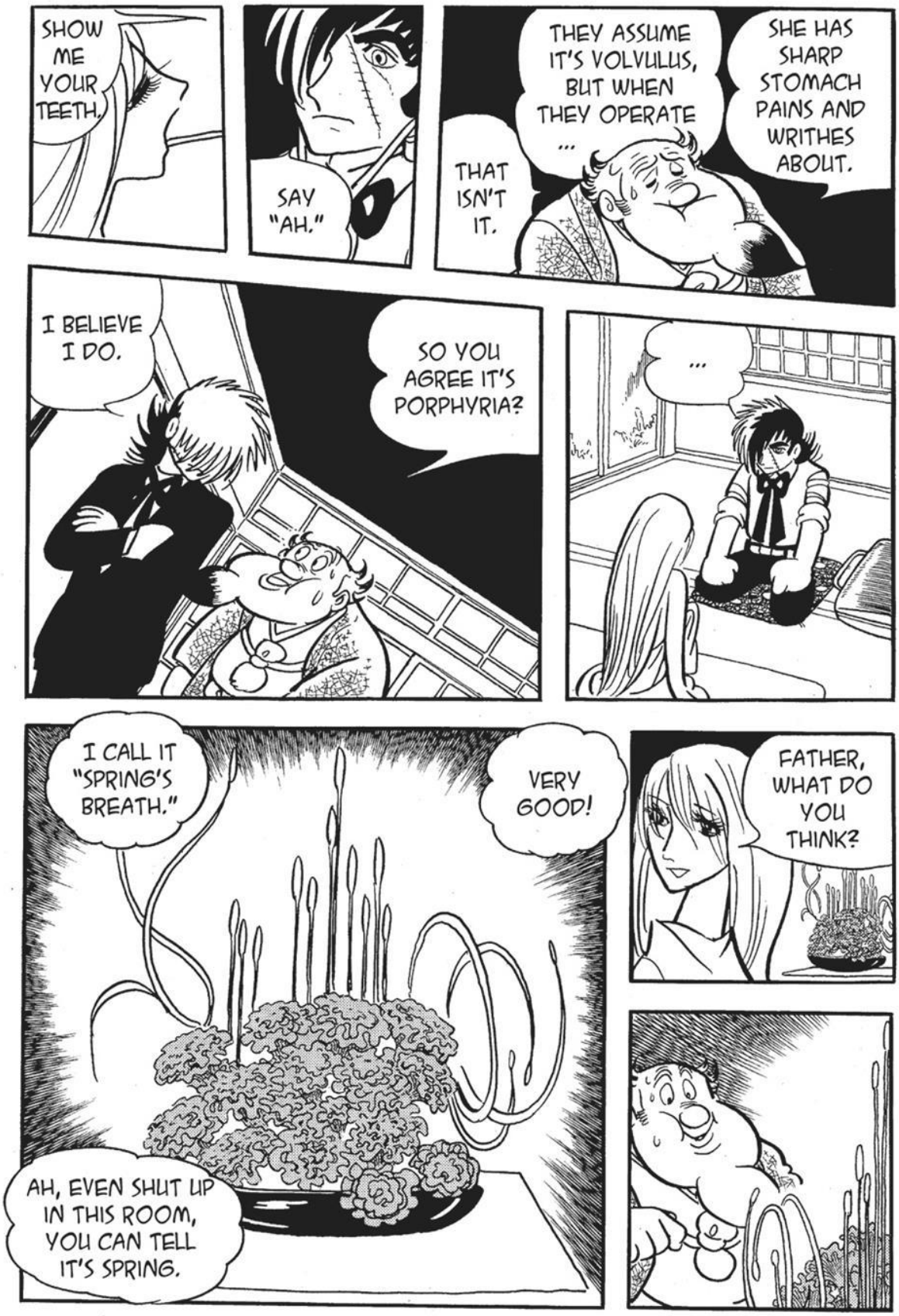
ゴッ
ゴッ
BUT THAT'S WHY SHE BECAME SO SENSITIVE TO NATURE'S BEAUTY.

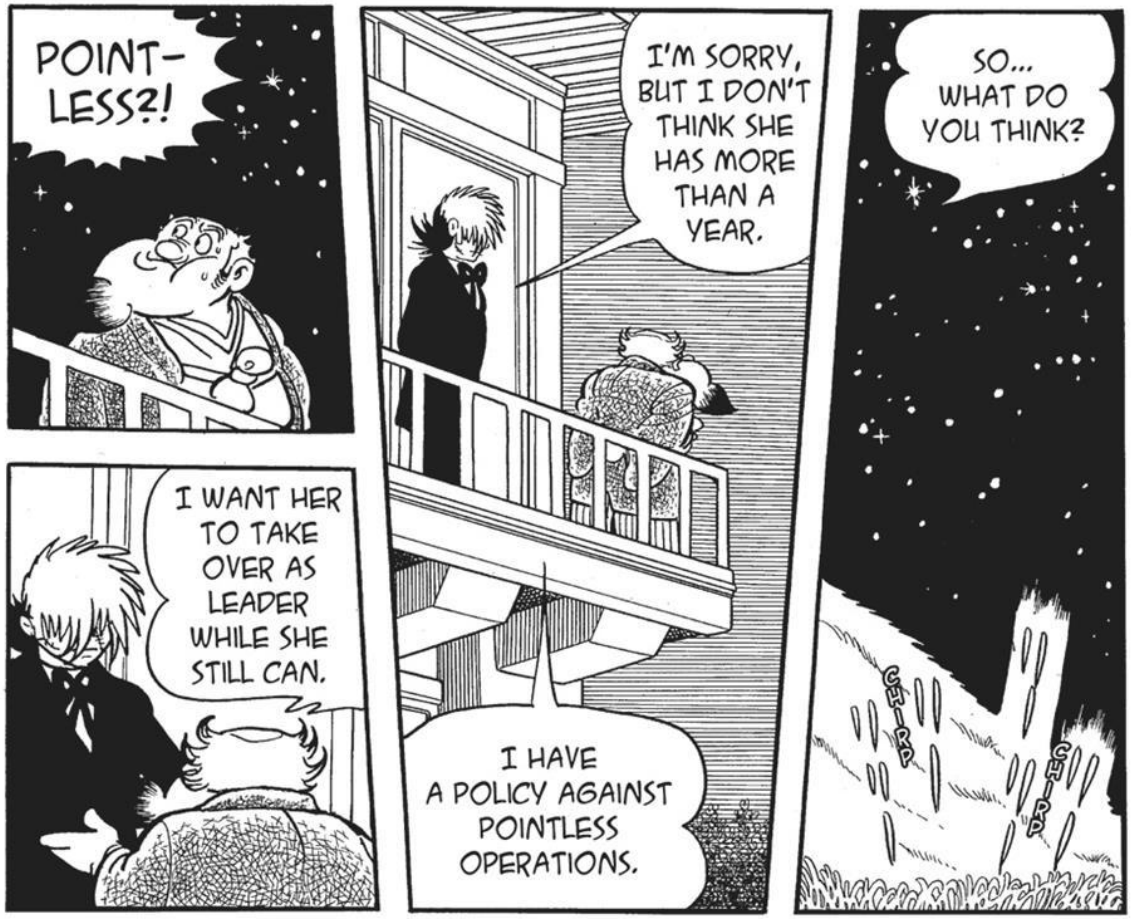






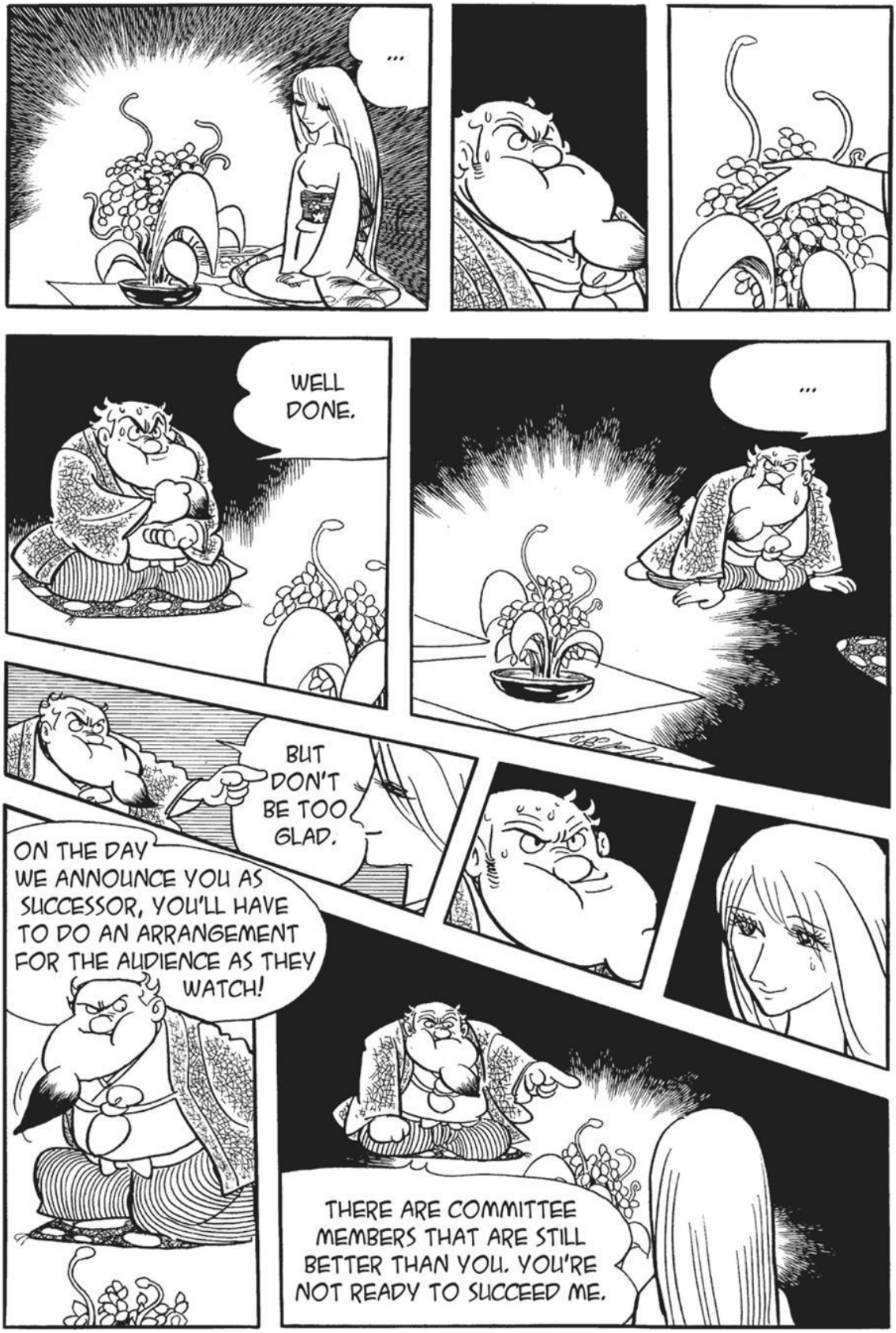
NOTE: LEIJI MATSUMOTO = A CELEBRATED MANGA ARTIST BEST KNOWN FOR SCI-FI WORKS *GALAXY EXPRESS* **999** AND *SPACE BATTLESHIP YAMATO* WHOSE HEROINES TEND TO HAVE A WILLOWY LOOK


SHOW ME YOUR TEETH.
SAY "AH."
THEY ASSUME IT'S VOLVULUS, BUT WHEN THEY OPERATE ...
THAT ISN'T IT.
SHE HAS SHARP STOMACH PAINS AND WRITHES ABOUT.
I BELIEVE I DO.
SO YOU AGREE IT'S PORPHYRIA?
...
I CALL IT "SPRING'S BREATH."
VERY GOOD!
AH, EVEN SHUT UP IN THIS ROOM, YOU CAN TELL IT'S SPRING.
FATHER, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

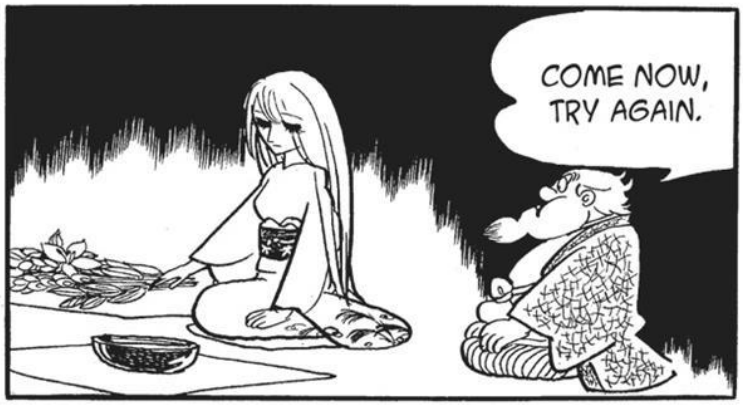

POINT-LESS?!
I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T THINK SHE HAS MORE THAN A YEAR.
SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I WANT HER TO TAKE OVER AS LEADER WHILE SHE STILL CAN.
I HAVE A POLICY AGAINST POINTLESS OPERATIONS.
GER-RR
GER-RR

YOU MIGHT THINK I'M JUST A DOTING FATHER, BUT DON'T YOU SEE HOW TALENTED SHE IS?
I WANT HER TO HAVE THE HONOR OF LEADING THE EIKO IKEBANA SCHOOL, EVEN BRIEFLY.
IF IT'S NOT ENOUGH I'LL PAY MORE.
バカッ!
SNAP
HERE'S 300 MILLION YEN.

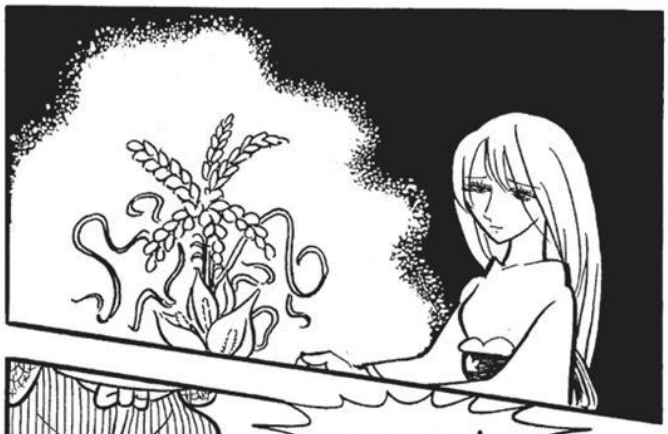
JUST FOR A DAY'S GLORY?
FOR HER SAKE, I'D PAY A BILLION.
300 MILLION?
YOU'RE NUTS!
THEY'RE DEAD WITHIN A FEW DAYS.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND IKEBANA.
WE TAKE FLOWERS AND ARRANGE THEM.
YOU JUST SAID SHE'LL DIE ANYWAYS.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH A PARTING GIFT?
SO YOU KILL FLOWERS TO MAKE ART?
SORRY, NOT MY KIND OF THING.
YET JUST FOR THOSE FEW DAYS— EVEN ONE DAY— WE'LL CREATE ART.
IT'S A TRANSIENT ART, BUT ONE THAT IS RECORDED FOR ETERNITY.


...
WELL DONE.
...
BUT DON'T BE TOO GLAD.
ON THE DAY WE ANNOUNCE YOU AS SUCCESSOR, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO AN ARRANGEMENT FOR THE AUDIENCE AS THEY WATCH!
THERE ARE COMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT ARE STILL BETTER THAN YOU. YOU'RE NOT READY TO SUCCEED ME.

DON'T WANT THE NEW EIKO MISTRESS TO BE A LAUGHING-STOCK!
AND YOU
IF YOU EMBARRASS YOURSELF, THE SCHOOL WILL SPLINTER UP!

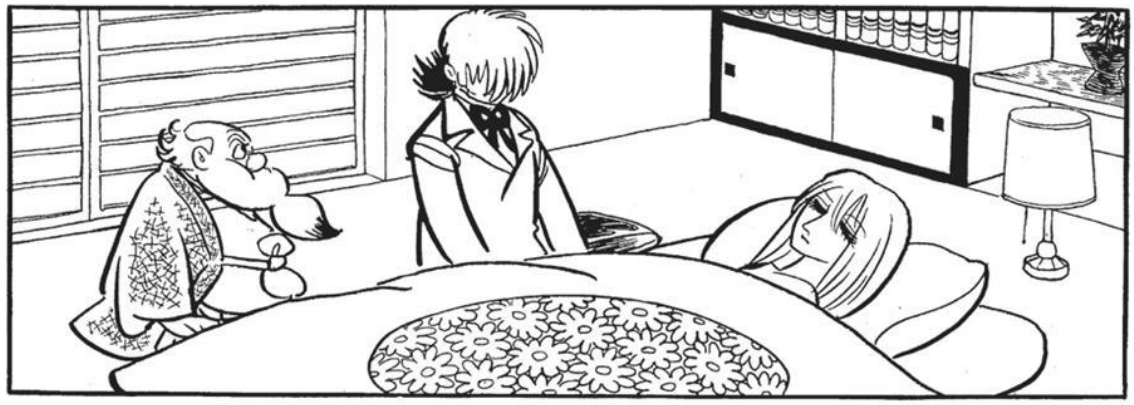

COME NOW, TRY AGAIN.

EIKO IS YOURS. THAT'S WHY YOU NEED THE SKILL.



SONO!
WHAT'S WRONG ?

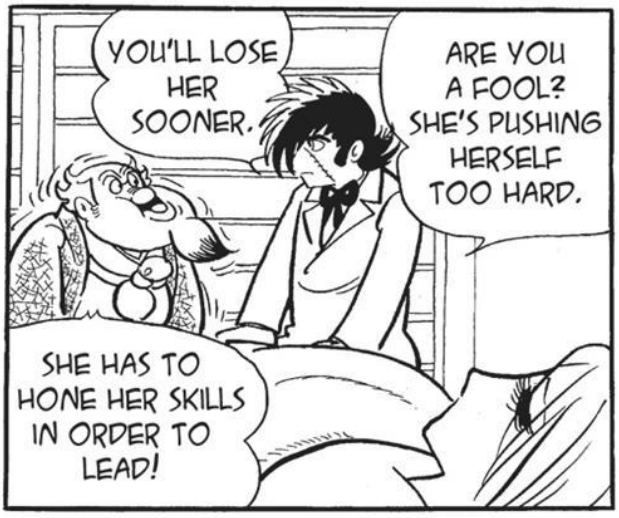
YES, I'LL NEED AS FRESH A CADAVER AS POSSIBLE. LET ME KNOW.

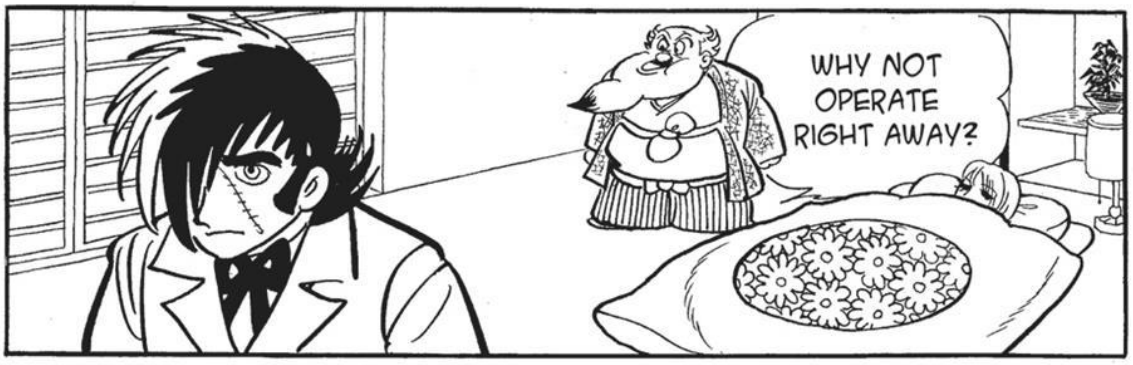


LEAVE HER HERE FOR NOW.
DO THAT WHEN YOU OPERATE.

I OUGHT TO TAKE HER TO MY CLINIC.
SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE.

IF SHE ISN'T THE BEST, THEN IT'S NO USE!
THE DEAD CAN'T LEAD.

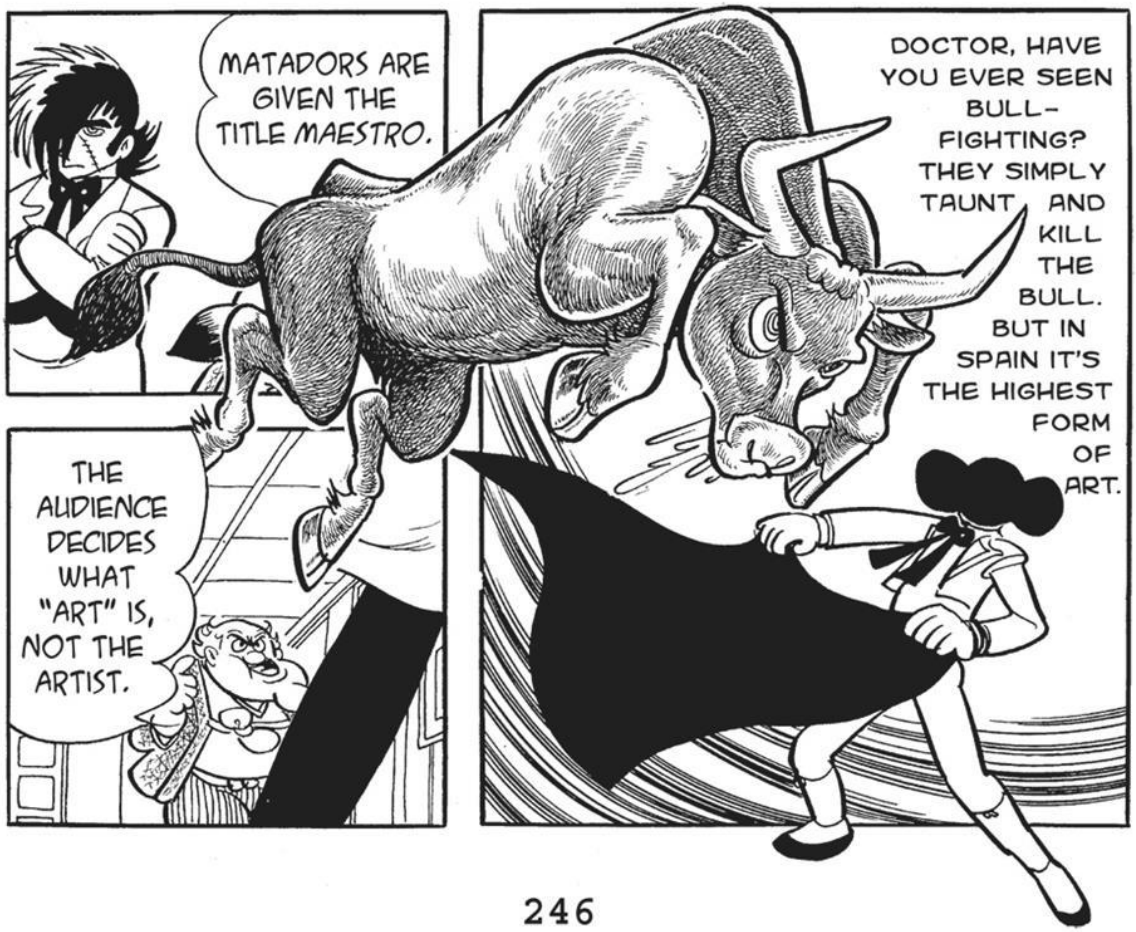

YOU'LL LOSE HER SOONER.
ARE YOU A FOOL? SHE'S PUSHING HERSELF TOO HARD.
SHE HAS TO HONE HER SKILLS IN ORDER TO LEAD!

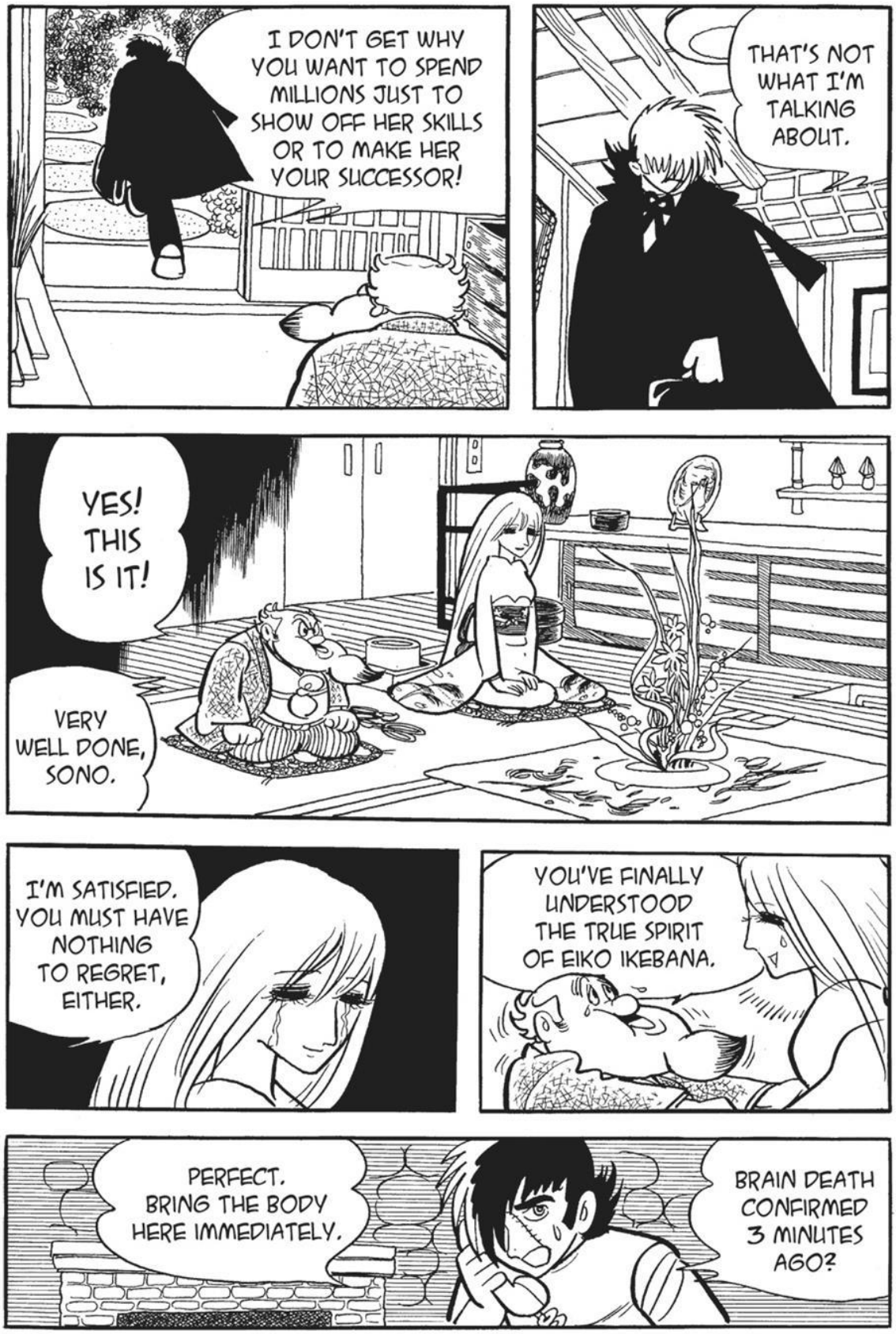

WHY NOT OPERATE RIGHT AWAY?

LOOK, DOCTOR.

I THINK WILD FLOWERS ARE PRETTIER.
I DON'T GET ART.

SHE DID THIS.


MATADORS ARE GIVEN THE TITLE *MAESTRO*.
THE AUDIENCE DECIDES WHAT "ART" IS, NOT THE ARTIST.
DOCTOR, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN BULL-FIGHTING? THEY SIMPLY TAUNT AND KILL THE BULL. BUT IN SPAIN IT'S THE HIGHEST FORM OF ART.

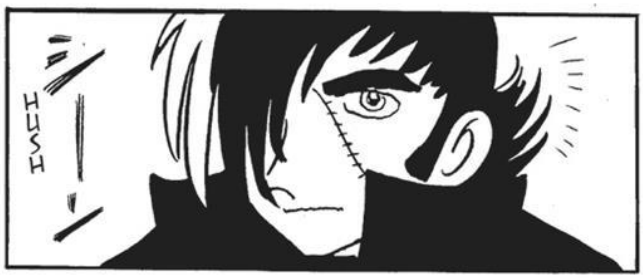

I DON'T GET WHY YOU WANT TO SPEND MILLIONS JUST TO SHOW OFF HER SKILLS OR TO MAKE HER YOUR SUCCESSOR!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
YES! THIS IS IT!
VERY WELL DONE, SONO.
I'M SATISFIED. YOU MUST HAVE NOTHING TO REGRET, EITHER.
YOU'VE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THE TRUE SPIRIT OF EIKO IKEBANA.
PERFECT. BRING THE BODY HERE IMMEDIATELY.
BRAIN DEATH CONFIRMED 3 MINUTES AGO?

PREP FOR OP!
PINOKO !
BRING THE YOUNG LADY TO THE O.R.!
WHAT'S THAT?
PLEASE DON'T BUTT IN !
LEAVE A DOCTOR'S WORK TO A DOCTOR.
WHAT ?!
YOU'RE REPLACING ALL HER SKIN? PLEASE DON'T!
A CORPSE. I'M TRANSPLANTING THE LIVER, SPLEEN, AND ALL OF THE SKIN.

WHY ARE YOU SHAKING?
CALM DOWN. WE HAVE TIME.
WE'LL START OFF WITH THE ORGAN TRANSPLANTS...
スーッ

A YEAR LATER
HUSH
NEW LIVER.
SU-TURE.

HOW CRASS OF HIM.
I'VE SEEN HIM AT AN EXHIBIT. AN ODD SORT.
WHO'S THAT?


HUSH

IT IS SONO EIKO. SHE IS MY DAUGHTER, BUT IN ART THERE ARE NO BLOOD TIES.
I HAVE SERVED AS MASTER OF THIS SCHOOL FOR MANY YEARS. TODAY WE WILL REVEAL THE NEXT LEADER.

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HUB BUB
ガヤ
HUB
ガヤ
BUB BUB
ザワ
HUB
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BUB
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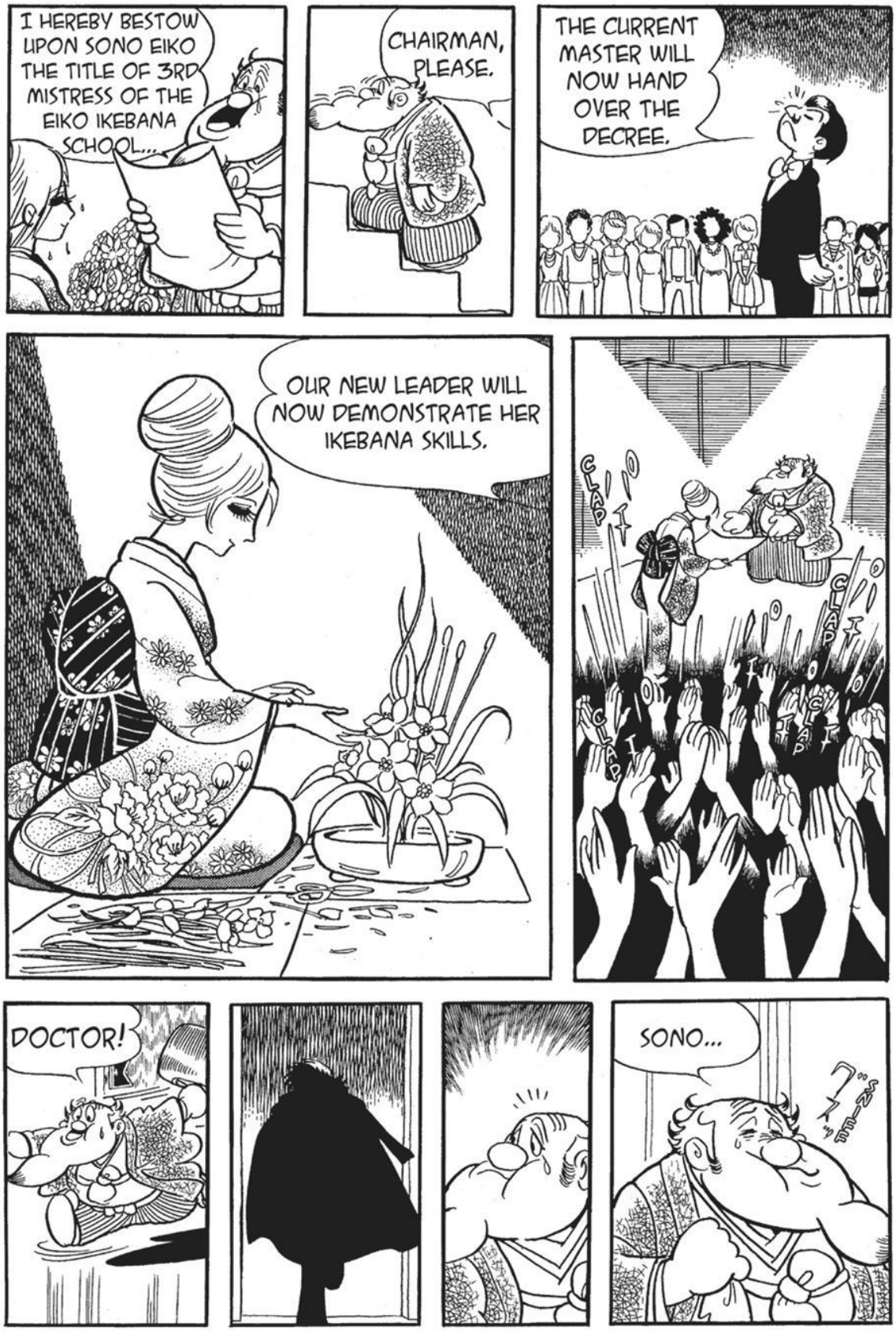
ガヤ

SONO EIKO!

PLEASE GIVE YOUR BLESSING.
ALL THE BRANCHES HAVE GIVEN THEIR FAIR APPROVAL OF HER SKILLS.

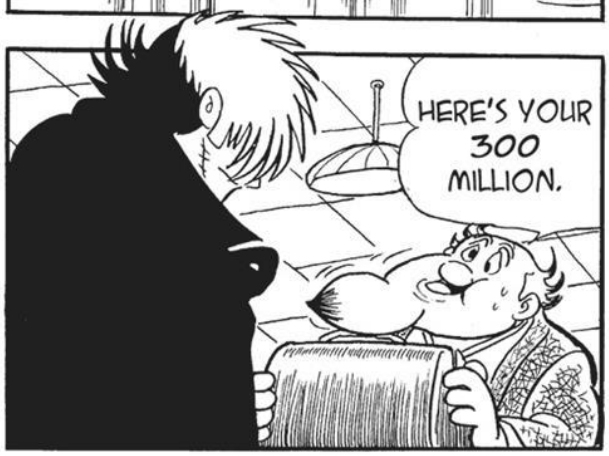
WOW, WOW, WOW, S-SHE'S LOVELY!
SO PRETTY. SHE LOOKS LIKE A FLOWER FAIRY.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE!

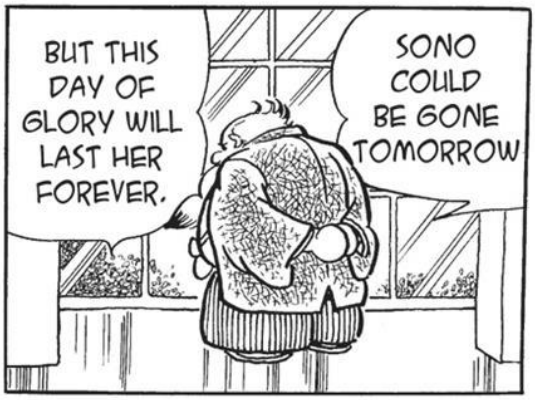
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

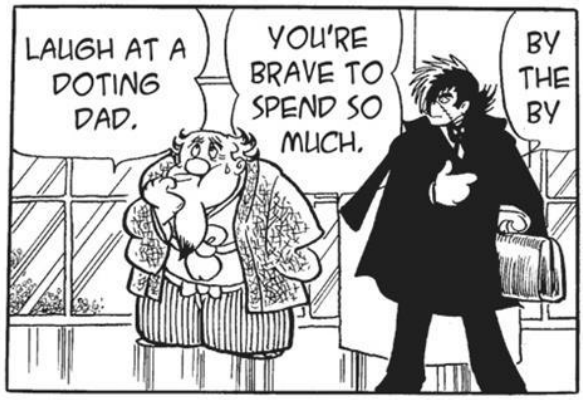

I HEREBY BESTOW UPON SONO EIKO THE TITLE OF 3RD MISTRESS OF THE EIKO IKEBANA SCHOOL....
CHAIRMAN, PLEASE.
THE CURRENT MASTER WILL NOW HAND OVER THE DECREE.
OUR NEW LEADER WILL NOW DEMONSTRATE HER IKEBANA SKILLS.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
DOCTOR!
SONO...

PLEASE STAY AND WITNESS HER FAREWELL PERFOR-MANCE.
I'VE NO INTEREST.

I'M BORED. I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE.

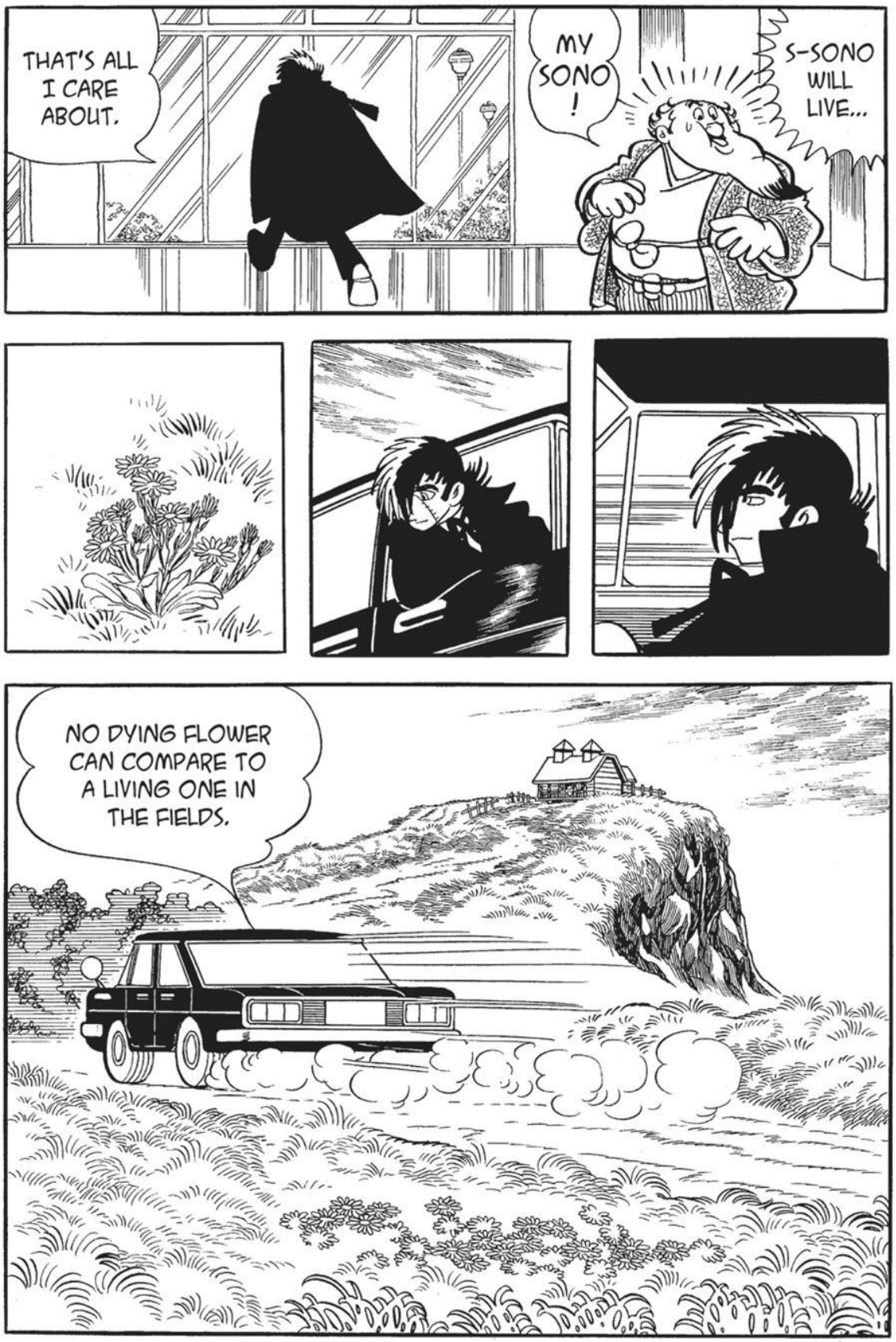

HERE'S YOUR 300 MILLION.


BUT THIS DAY OF GLORY WILL LAST HER FOREVER.
SONO COULD BE GONE TOMORROW


LAUGH AT A DOTING DAD.
YOU'RE BRAVE TO SPEND SO MUCH.
BY THE BY

THAT'S WHAT I THINK I DID.
HUH?!

SHE'LL LIVE ANOTHER TWENTY YEARS.
"DAY" ?
HEH.


THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT.
MY SONO!
S-SONO WILL LIVE...
NO DYING FLOWER CAN COMPARE TO A LIVING ONE IN THE FIELDS.

A CHOLERA SCARE

JAL FLIGHT 603 FROM MANILA IS NOW ARRIVING...

AMEWICAN CHOCO-LATES?
DID YOU BWING GIFTS?

I'LL HURRY HOME SOON.
RIGHT, I'M AT THE AIRPORT.

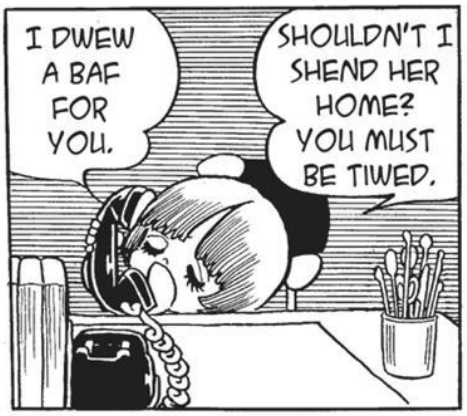
I'LL SEE HER RIGHT AWAY.
OKAY, HAVE HER WAIT.

WANTS SHUR-GEWY.
THERE'S A LADY HERE WHO

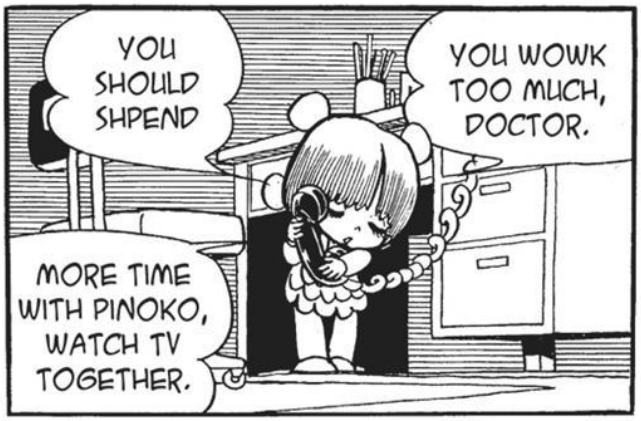
YAY!!
I DID.

ALSHO ...

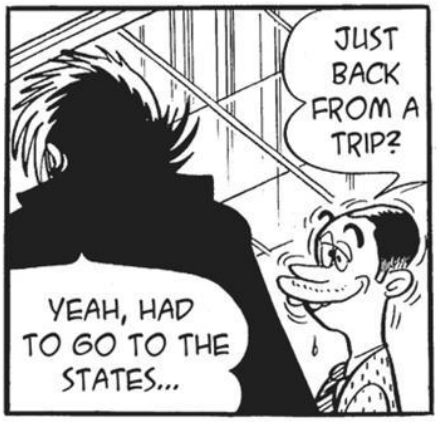
I'M NOT TIRED. SAME AS ALWAYS.

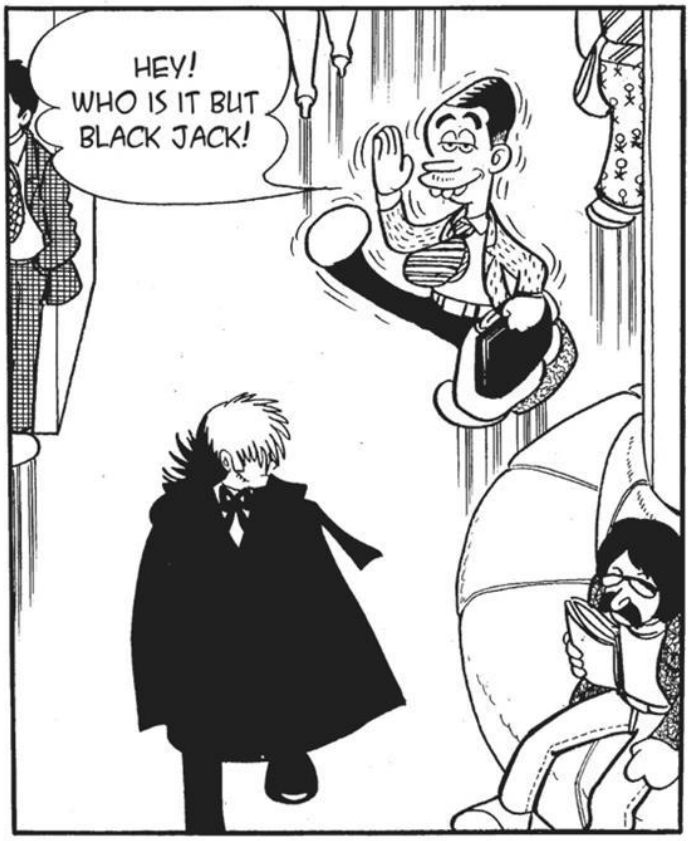

I DWEW A BAF FOR YOU.
SHOULDN'T I SHEND HER HOME? YOU MUST BE TIWED.

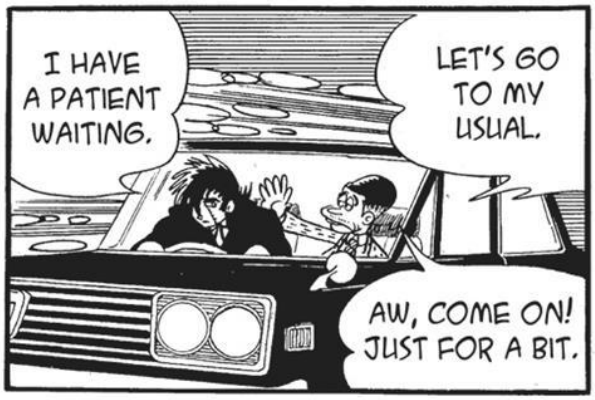
OKAY, OKAY.
JUST KEEP THAT PATIENT THERE.


YOU SHOULD SHPEND
YOU WOWK TOO MUCH, DOCTOR.
MORE TIME WITH PINOKO, WATCH TV TOGETHER.

LAST SAW YOU AT THE REUNION.
ANDO ?

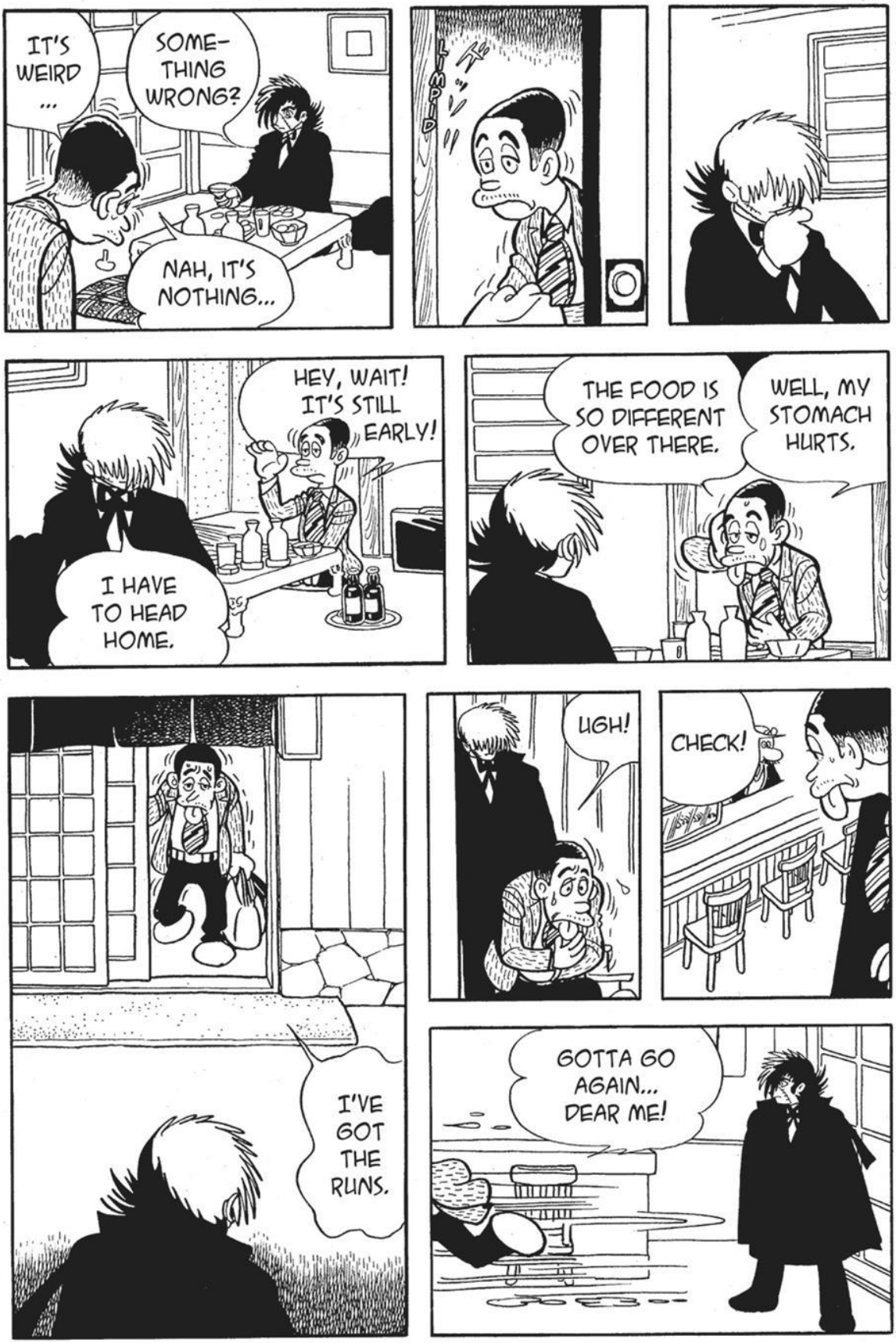

JUST BACK FROM A TRIP?
YEAH, HAD TO GO TO THE STATES...


HEY! WHO IS IT BUT BLACK JACK!


I HAVE A PATIENT WAITING.
LET'S GO TO MY USUAL.
AW, COME ON! JUST FOR A BIT.

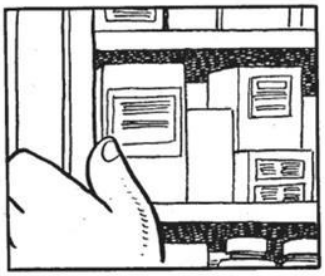
REALLY? I WAS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA.
LET'S GRAB A DRINK! HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE.

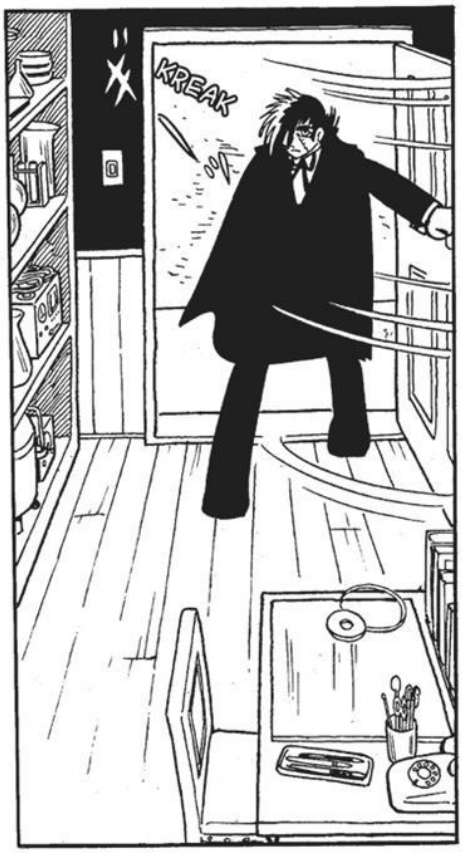
I HEAR YOU'RE STILL SINGLE!
NEITHER DO YOU.
I PREFER FILIPINAS EVEN TO POP IDOL GIRLS.
MANILA IS AWESOME. SO MANY CUTE GIRLS!
YOU NEVER CHANGE.
NO, I DON'T NEED IT.
HERE.
ARE YOU SAYING MY MOUTH'S DIRTY OR SOMETHING?
YOU SKIPPED QUARANTINE INSPECTION, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU REFUSING MY OFFER OF GOOD SAKE? WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
GOTTA GO. STAY PUT.
AND NEUROTIC.
YOU'RE A STUBBORN ONE.

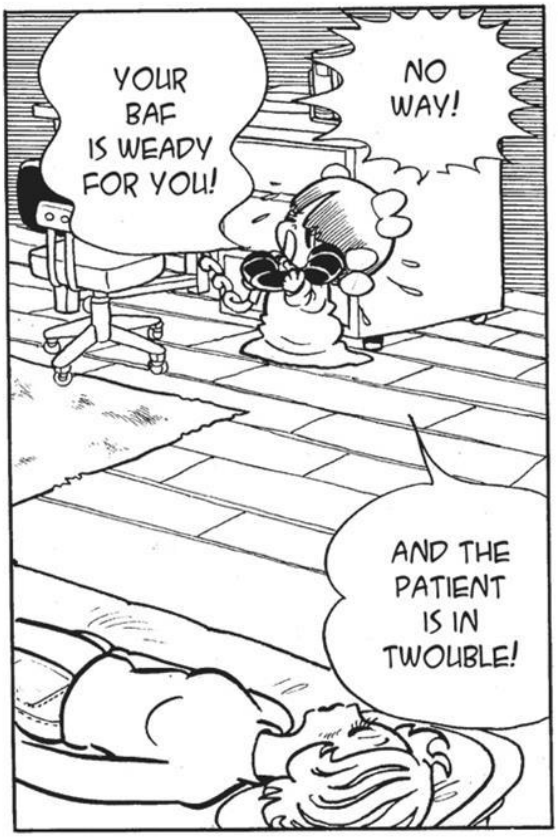

IT'S WEIRD ...
SOME-THING WRONG?
NAH, IT'S NOTHING...
LIMPED
HEY, WAIT! IT'S STILL EARLY!
I HAVE TO HEAD HOME.
THE FOOD IS SO DIFFERENT OVER THERE.
WELL, MY STOMACH HURTS.
I'VE GOT THE RUNS.
UGH!
CHECK!
GOTTA GO AGAIN... DEAR ME!

SEE YA.
THIS WAY FOR ME.
I-I'M FINE.
YOU OK? YOU'RE GHOST WHITE.
A GROUP OF DOCTORS RETURNING FROM THE PHILIPPINES ON JAL FLIGHT 603 HAS SUFFERED AN OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA. OUT OF 38 PEOPLE, 20 HAVE CONTRACTED THE DISEASE...
THE INFECTED ARE CLINICIANS WHO CAN PUT MANY PEOPLE AT RISK. A STRICT QUARANTINE IS...

ARE YOU SAYING MY MOUTH'S DIRTY OR SOMETHING?
DAMN! I'M INFECTED WITH CHOLERA!
I DRANK FROM HIS CUP!
SQUEAK

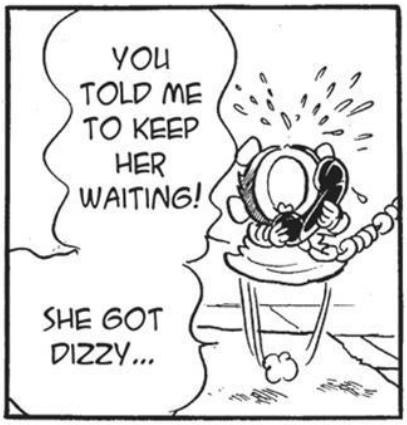



KREAK


YOUR BAF IS WEADY FOR YOU!
NO WAY!
AND THE PATIENT IS IN TWOUBLE!

IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE.

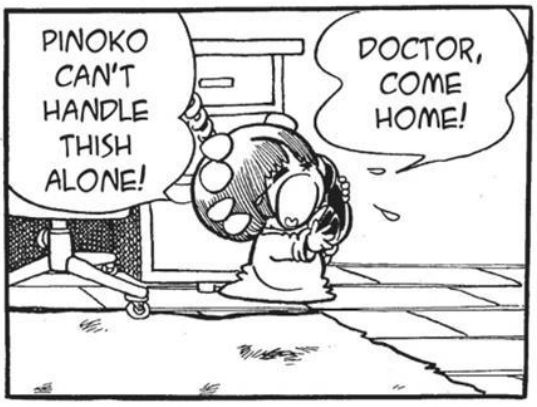
PINOKO, ACTUALLY I CAN'T COME HOME TONIGHT.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO FOR A FEW DAYS.

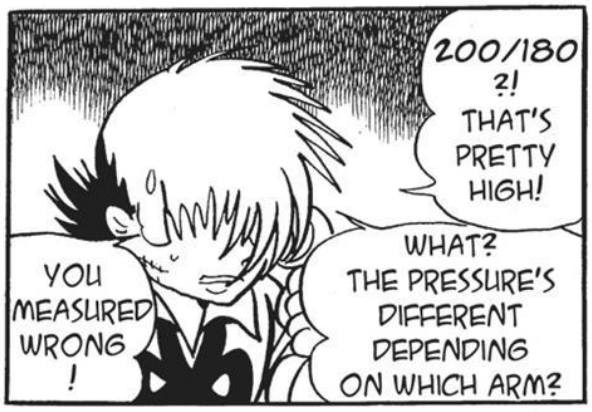

YOU TOLD ME TO KEEP HER WAITING!
SHE GOT DIZZY...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SHE FAINTED SHUDDENLY!

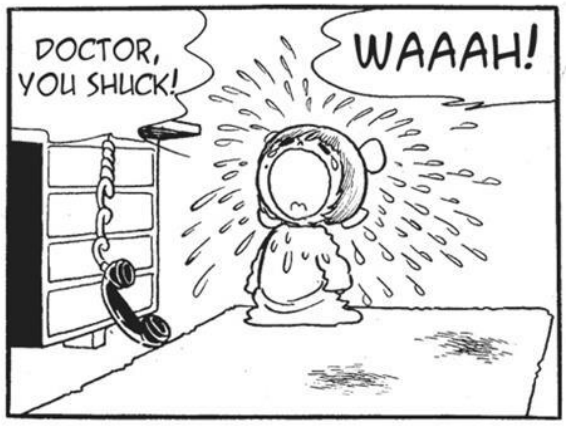
HOW ABOUT BLOOD PRESSURE?
NO PULSE?!
A FEVER? WHAT ABOUT HER PULSE?

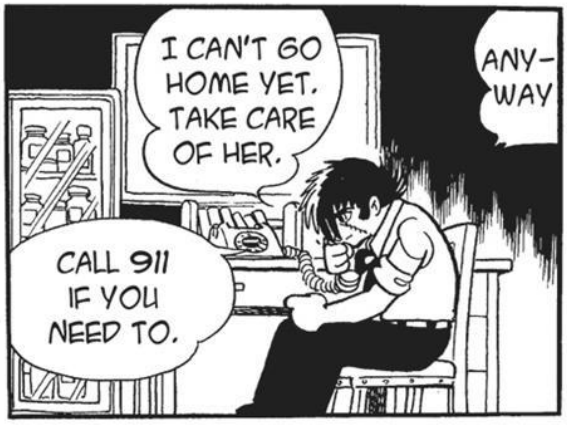

PINOKO CAN'T HANDLE THISH ALONE!
DOCTOR, COME HOME!


200/180 ?! THAT'S PRETTY HIGH!
YOU MEASURED WRONG !
WHAT? THE PRESSURE'S DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON WHICH ARM?

WAAH!

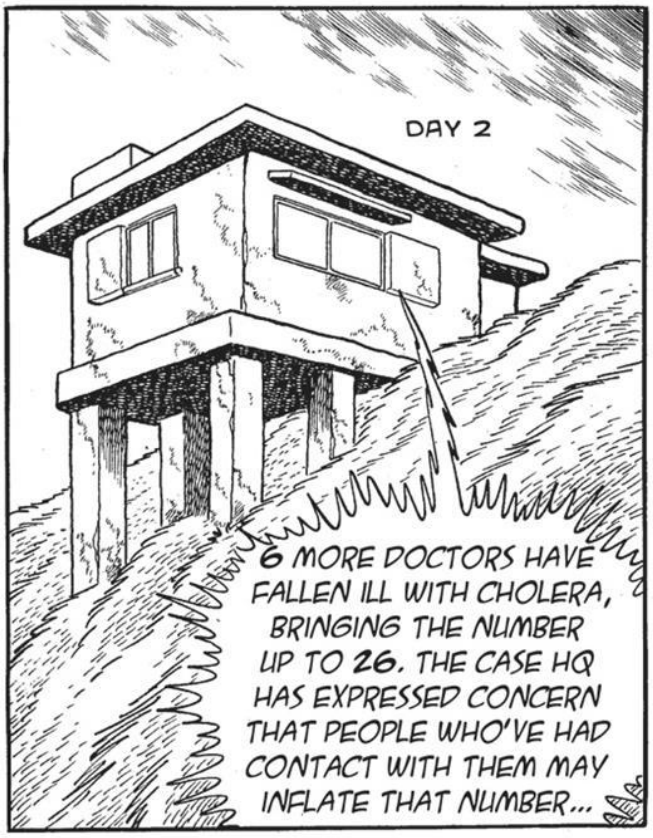
LET HER REST. DON'T INJECT ANYTHING. MAKE HER FACE SIDEWAYS.
CALM DOWN!
DON'T WHINE! YOU'RE MY ASSISTANT, AREN'T YOU?


DOCTOR, YOU SHUCK!
WAAAH!


I CAN'T GO HOME YET. TAKE CARE OF HER.
ANY-WAY
CALL 911 IF YOU NEED TO.

NO CHOLERA BACTERIA SO FAR.
STOOL SHOWS

SYMPTOMS WOULD SHOW TODAY OR TOMORROW.

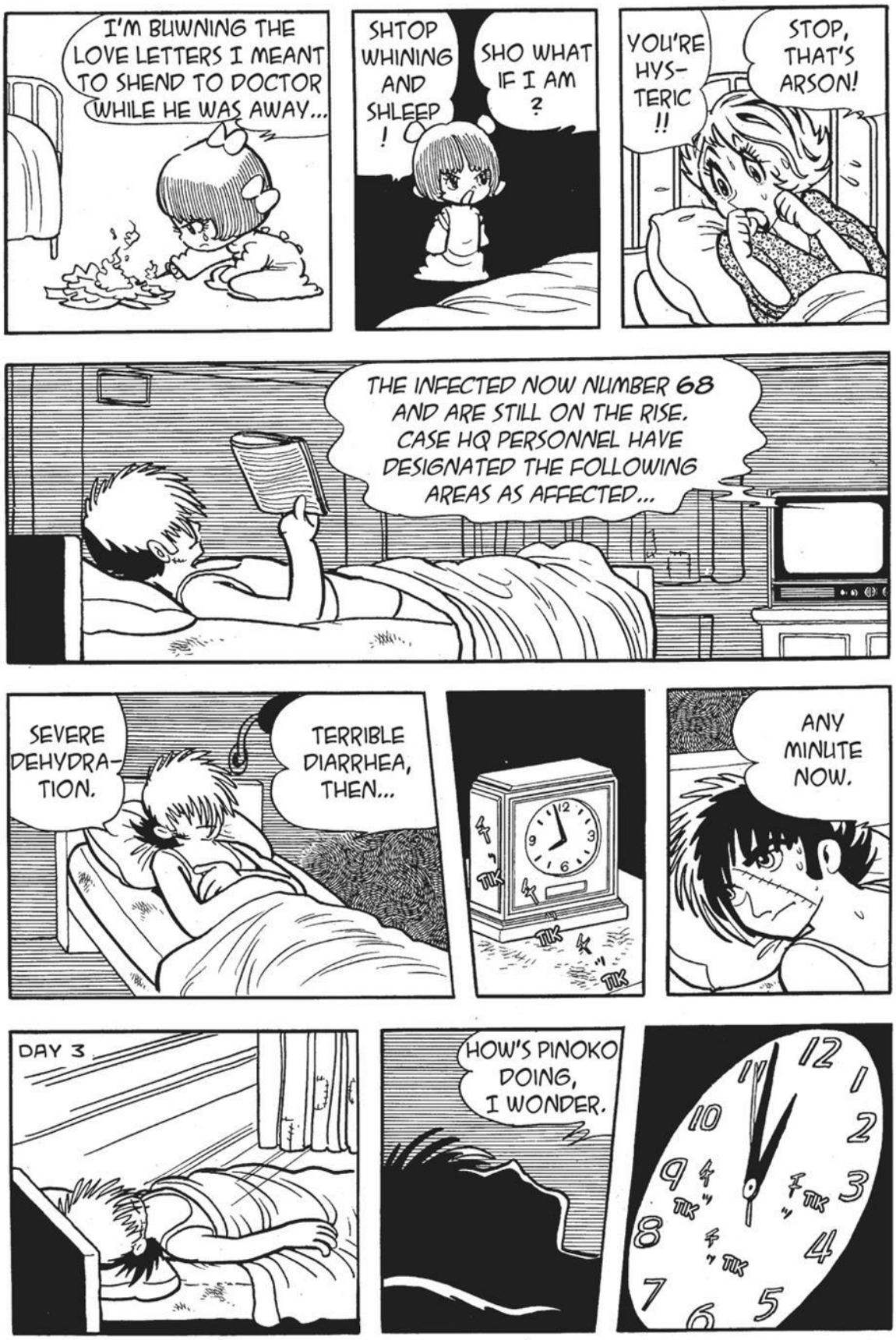

DAY 2
6 MORE DOCTORS HAVE FALLEN ILL WITH CHOLERA, BRINGING THE NUMBER UP TO 26. THE CASE HQ HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PEOPLE WHO'VE HAD CONTACT WITH THEM MAY INFLATE THAT NUMBER...

I'VE SEEN AND BEEN TREATED BY MANY DOCTORS
AND NONE COULD CURE ME!

YOU CAN'T TAKE ME ELSEWHERE.
NO!

THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND IT AND SAY THEY CAN'T COMPLETELY CURE IT.
...
THEY SAY IT'S "PULSELESS DISEASE."
RI-RI-RI-RING
I DUNNO WHERE HE IS!
BUT HE'S NOT HERE!
HE CAN CURE ANY-THING, RIGHT?
BUT DR. BLACK JACK CAN.
IF I GO THERE AND OPERATE, I MIGHT MAKE THE PATIENT SICK.
I MIGHT HAVE A TERRIBLE DISEASE.
LISTEN CAREFULLY, PINOKO.
IS IT YOU?
DOC-TOR?
WHERE ARE YOU ?
SHTU-PID!
SHTUPID DOCTOR !
WHY WON'T YOU SHAV ?
ARE YOU HAVING AN AFFAIR ?!

IF I DON'T EXHIBIT ANY, THEN I'LL HEAD HOME.
THE INCUBATION PERIOD ENDS TOMORROW. I WOULD SEE SYMPTOMS.
WHICH IS WHY I WON'T TELL.
I KNOW YOU WILL.
PINOKO WILL GO THERE!
TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE!
SHE MUST BE RAISING HELL.
TAKE CARE OF HER.
WAIT FOR TWO DAYS. CALL AN AMBULANCE IF SHE GETS WORSE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
I'M PISSHED OFF!
GRR
WAAAH
AAAH
ARGH


I'M BUWNING THE LOVE LETTERS I MEANT TO SHEND TO DOCTOR WHILE HE WAS AWAY...
SHTOP WHINING AND SHLEEP !
SHO WHAT IF I AM ?
YOU'RE HYS-TERIC !!
STOP, THAT'S ARSON!
THE INFECTED NOW NUMBER 68 AND ARE STILL ON THE RISE. CASE HQ PERSONNEL HAVE DESIGNATED THE FOLLOWING AREAS AS AFFECTED...
SEVERE DEHYDRA-TION.
TERRIBLE DIARRHEA, THEN...
TIK
ANY MINUTE NOW.
DAY 3
HOW'S PINOKO DOING, I WONDER.

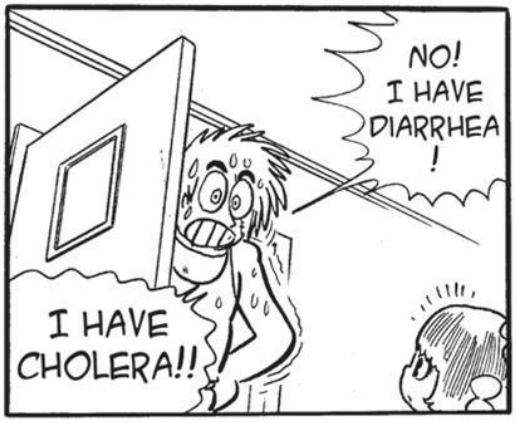
YOU IN PAIN?
WHAT TO DO...
"PANT"
"PANT"
PANT
LET'S TWY SHOME ASHPIWIN.
I-IT HURTS...
FAINTING, HIGH BLOOD PWESSURE, NO PULSE...
FEVER, FATIGUE, DIZZINESH...
IS THERE SUCH A FING?
I CAN'T SEE. IT'S ALL DARK.
HUH?
I CAN'T ... SEE ...
THIS WILL COOL YOUR FEVER.
SHUDDEN BLIND-NESH...
UHM, UHM ...
SHTOP ADDING SHYMP-TOMS!
MY ARMS WON'T MOVE!
WHAT WILL I DO?
WHERE'S THE MEDICINE? I CAN'T SEE!
WHERE ARE YOU ?
WAIT, LEMME LOOK IT UP!

AAGH!
AT LEASHT ONE'LL WOWK.
I'LL JUST MIX ALL THE MEDISHINE TOGETHER.
OH, YOU FAINTED AGAIN?
HANG ON! WHAT'S WONG?
SHE'S DEAD!
PUPILSH DILATED.
DEEAAAD!

YOU'RE TOO LATE!
AAH! DOC-TOR!
NO! DON'T DIE! WAAAH!
VRRRR
HM!
YOU SHTUPID! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
SHE'S DEAD!
SHE'S NOT DEAD BUT SHE'S CLOSE. I'LL OPERATE.
IT'S PULSH-LESH DISEASE!
THEY CAN'T TWEAT HER! THAT'S WHY SHE'S HERE!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SEND HER TO A HOSPITAL?

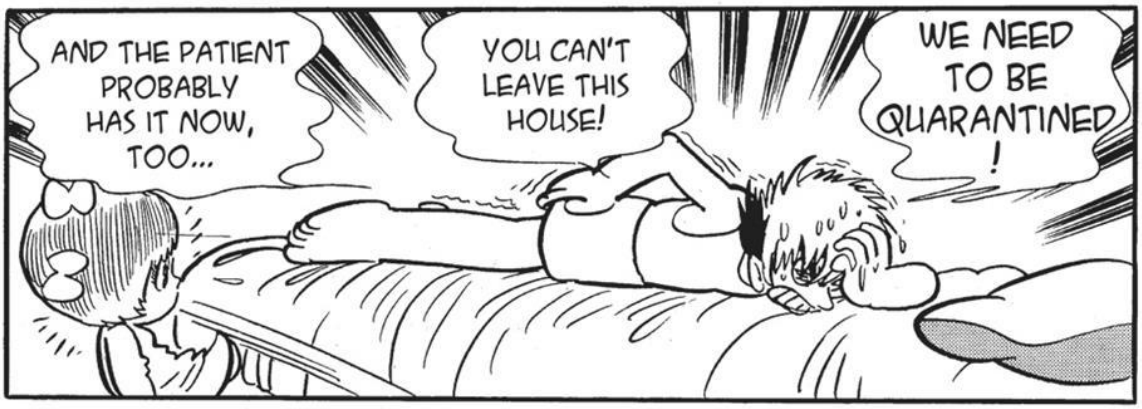
GULP
ガバッ
SHAA
ADMINISTER VASCULAT.
SCALPEL.
IF SHE HAS A STROKE IT'LL BE TOO LATE.
HER CAROTID ARTERY IS BLOCKED.
HPL FOR-CEPS.
ATRAU-MATIC NEEDLE.
SYN-THE-TIC VEIN.

NO WAY. ONLY FOR TODAY.
I'LL CHANGE OUT ABDOMINAL ARTERIES TOMORROW.
DONE ?
OKAY, THIS SHOULD HELP BLOOD FLOW SMOOTHLY TO THE BRAIN.
TLP
I QUARANTINED MYSELF. I THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE CHOLERA.
TEWWIBLE DOCTOR. I WAS SHO WOWWIED.
WHEW.
ARE YOU SHAFE NOW?
NO SYMPTOMS IN 3 DAYS. I SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
IT TAKES A COUPLE DAYS TO SEE SYMPTOMS. THAT'S WHY I STAYED AWAY.
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE NEWS?
CHOLERA?
WHAT'S WONG?
MY STOMACH SEEMS TO BE ACTING UP.
THAT'S ODD.
UGH!


NO! I HAVE DIARRHEA!
I HAVE CHOLERA!!

OH NO!!
COULD IT BE ...

I KNEW IT!
BUT WHY NOW?!


AND THE PATIENT PROBABLY HAS IT NOW, TOO...
YOU CAN'T LEAVE THIS HOUSE!
WE NEED TO BE QUARANTINED!

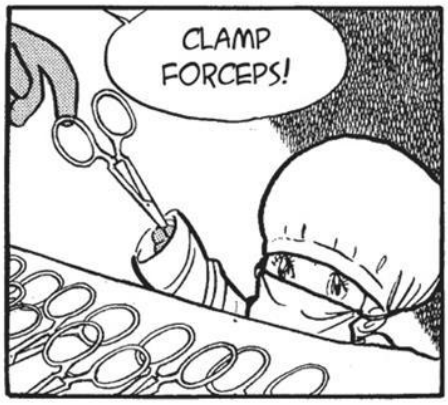
BATH-ROOM...

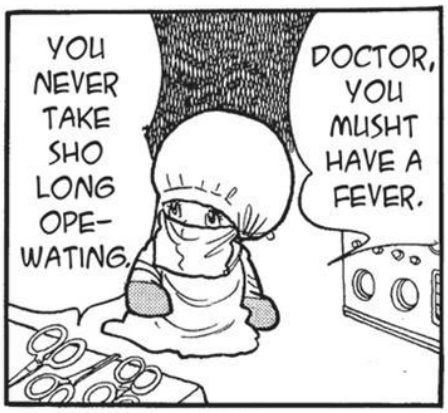
IT'S MY FAULT.
THE OP WAS A MISTAKE!
WE GOTTA VACCINATE YOU, TOO.

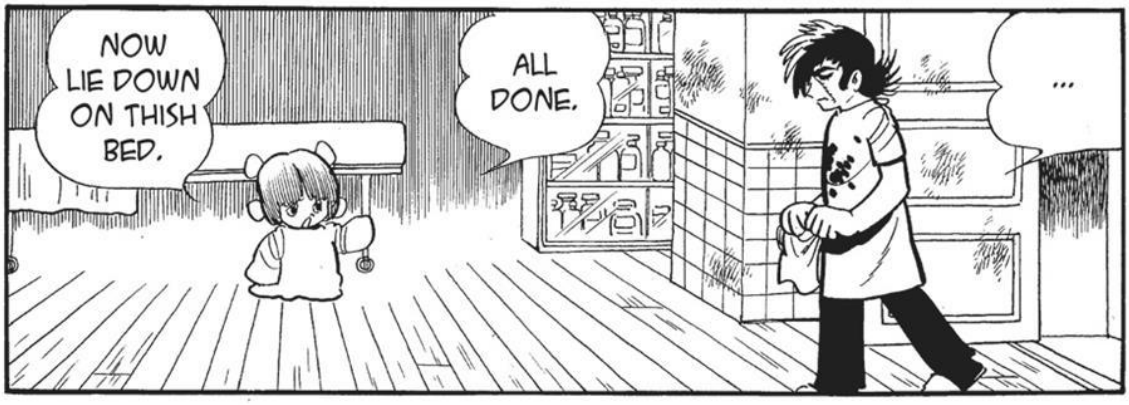
I'LL MAKE SHOME FOR YOU!
WAIT! PINOKO'S GOOD AT MAKING MEDISHINE!
I-I NEED A TRANS-FUSION...
CAN'T YOU CUWE IT?
DOCTOR, DID YOU DWINK IT?!
HUH? WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT MEDISHINE ?
IT'LL BE NO USE!
FORGET IT!
BUT IT'S NOT CHOLEWA! AREN'T YOU GLAD?
NO WONDER I'VE GOT THE RUNS.
YEAH, WASN'T THAT JUICE?
NO! IT WAS MEDISHINE FOR THE PATIENT!
FEVER AND PAIN WELIEVER, NON-DWOWSY ANTI-ITCH MEDS, HEMOWWHOID 'N DEWOWMING MEDISHINE PLUS SHYWUP.

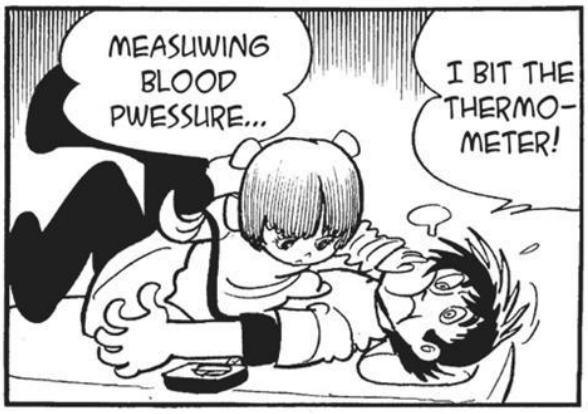
SUGGESTION IN THE 20TH YEAR

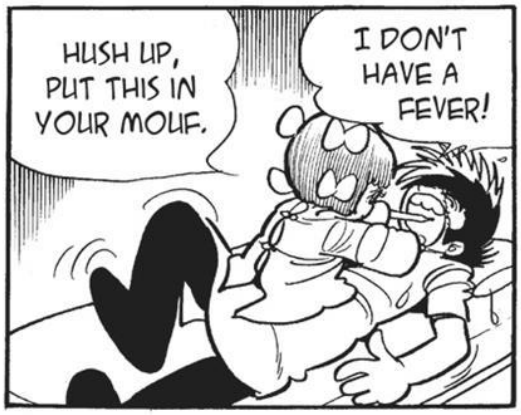
ANOTHER!
FORCEPS!
WHAT'S WONG?
NOTHING ... I'M OKAY.
WHAT ARE YOU FINKING ABOUT ?
SHOME-FING WONG, DOCTOR ?

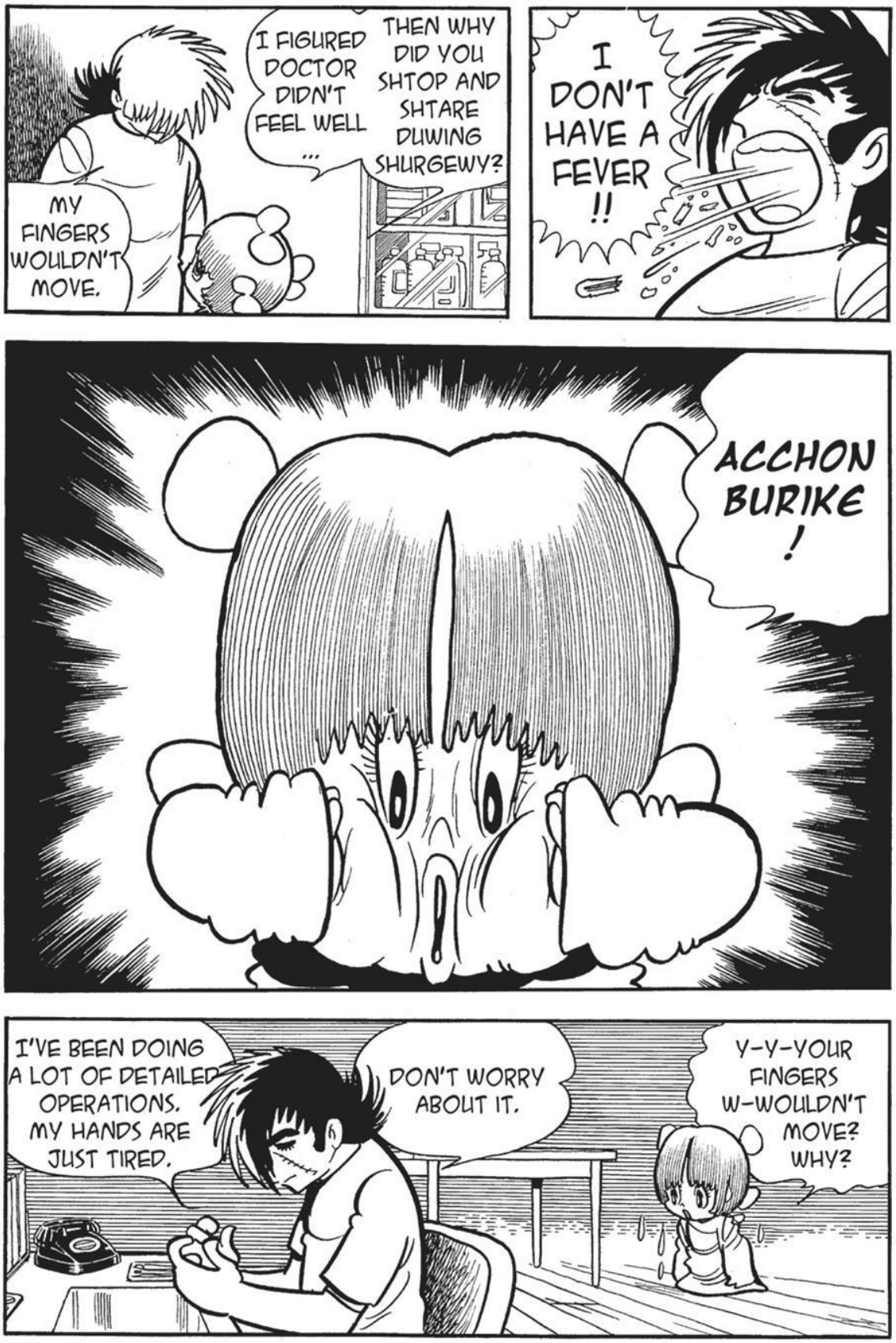

CLAMP FORCEPS!


YOU NEVER TAKE SHO LONG OPE-WATING.
DOCTOR, YOU MUSHT HAVE A FEVER.

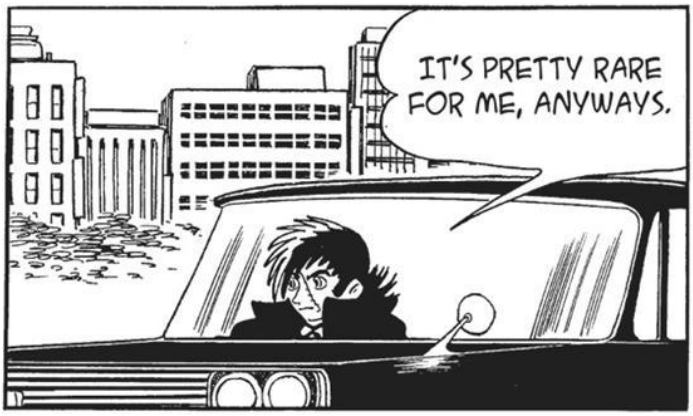

NOW LIE DOWN ON THISH BED.
ALL DONE.
...

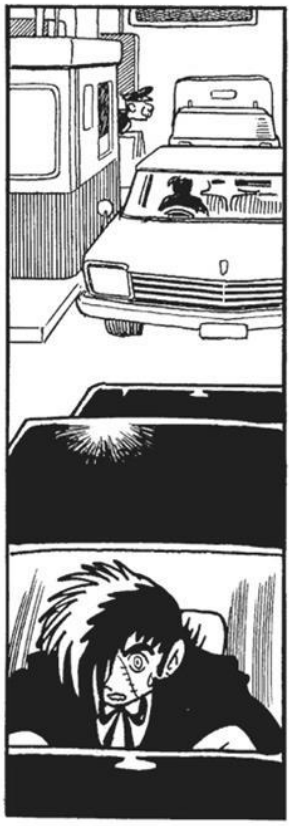

MEASUWING BLOOD PWESSURE...
I BIT THE THERMO-METER!

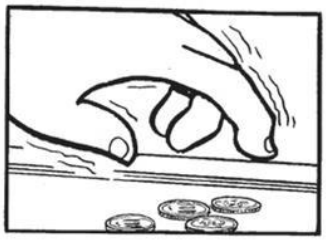

HUSH UP, PUT THIS IN YOUR MOUF.
I DON'T HAVE A FEVER!


MY FINGERS WOULDN'T MOVE.
I FIGURED DOCTOR DIDN'T FEEL WELL ...
THEN WHY DID YOU SHTOP AND SHTARE DUWING SHURGEWY?
I DON'T HAVE A FEVER !!
ACCHON BURIKE !
I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF DETAILED OPERATIONS. MY HANDS ARE JUST TIRED.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
Y-Y-YOUR FINGERS W-WOULDN'T MOVE? WHY?

首都高速道
METROPOLITAN EXPRESSWAY


IT'S PRETTY RARE FOR ME, ANYWAYS.

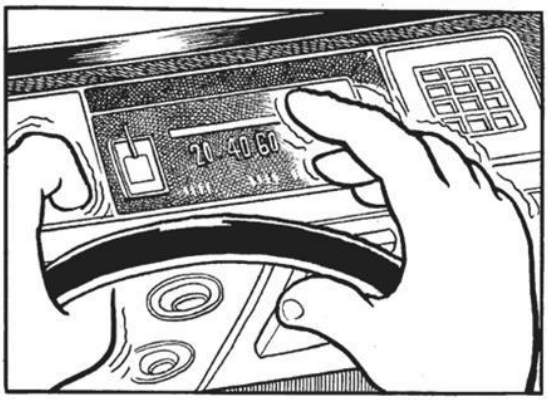




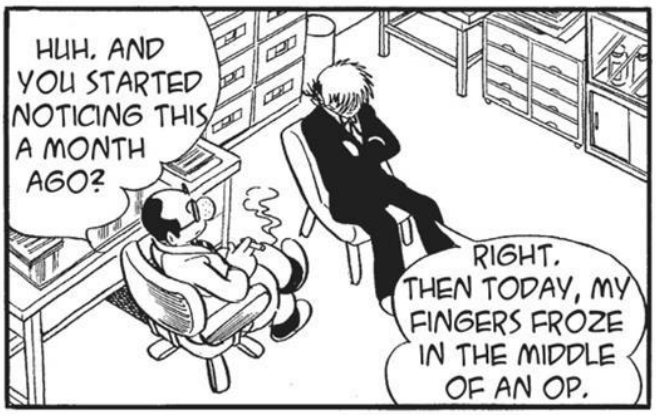
PLEASE. THERE'S CARS WAITIN' BEHIND YA.

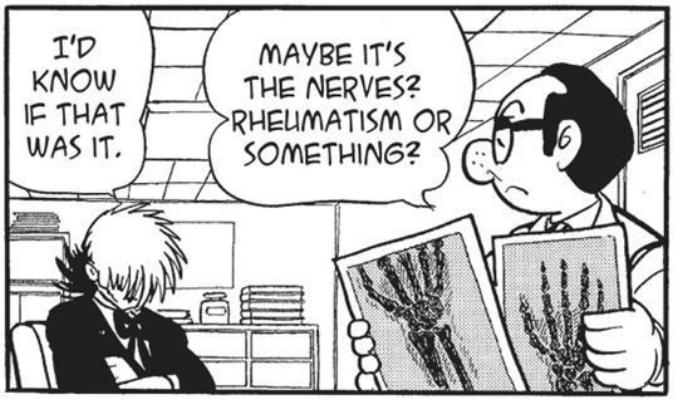
チャリーン
KLANG

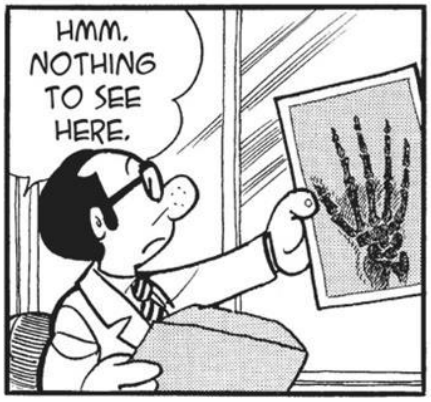
HERE'S YER CHANGE!



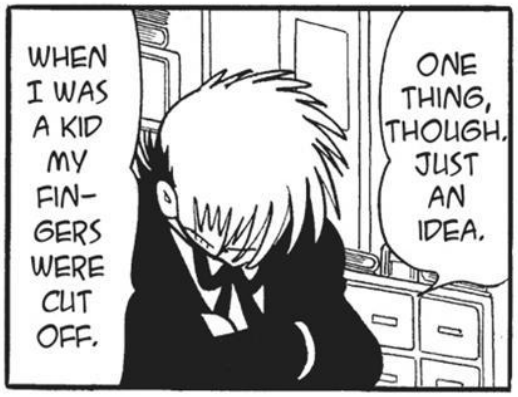
HERE'S THE X-RAY.


HUH. AND YOU STARTED NOTICING THIS A MONTH AGO?
RIGHT. THEN TODAY, MY FINGERS FROZE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN OP.

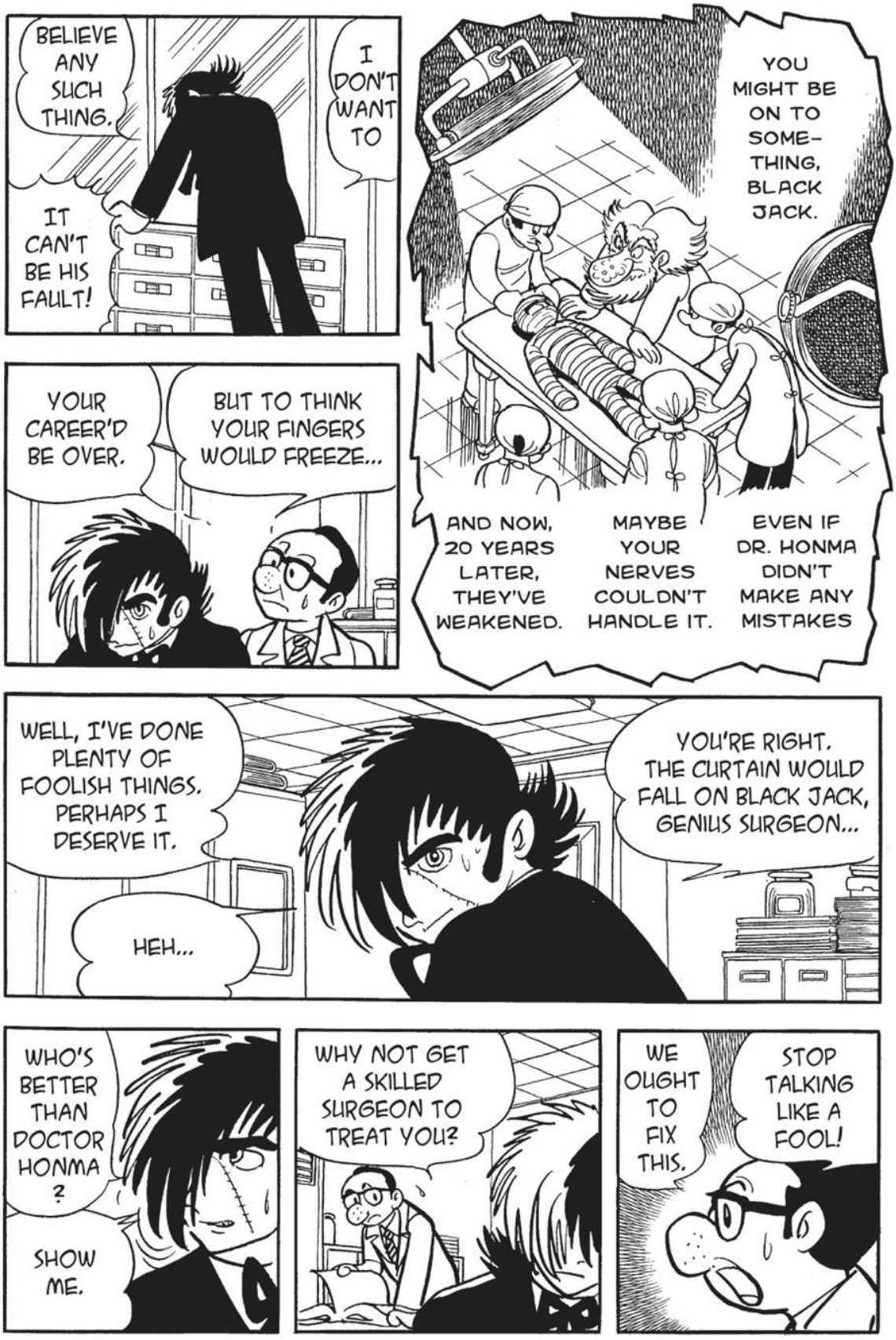

I'D KNOW IF THAT WAS IT.
MAYBE IT'S THE NERVES? RHEUMATISM OR SOMETHING?

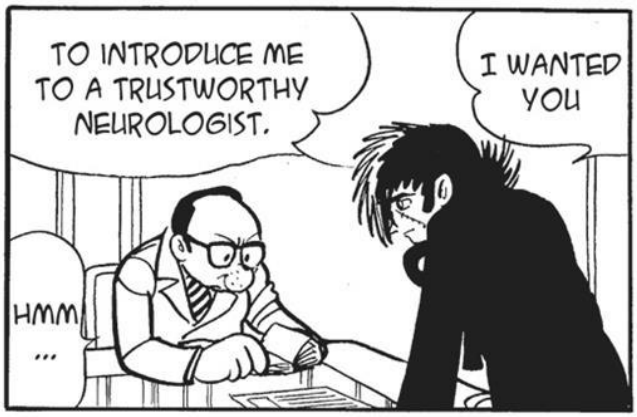

HMM. NOTHING TO SEE HERE.

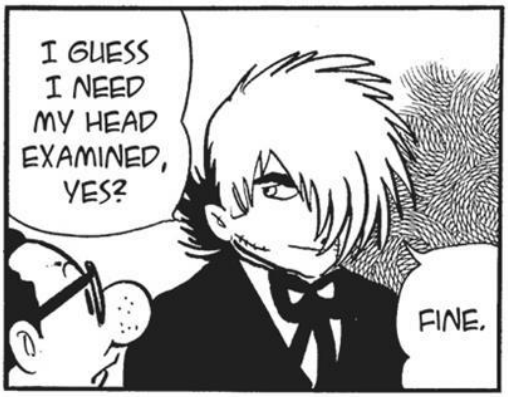
BUT DR. HONMA'S OPERATION WAS PERFECT!
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I CAN THINK OF.
YES. AND DR. JOTARO HONMA PERFORMED ORTHO-PEDIC SURGERY ON ME...


WHEN I WAS A KID MY FIN-GERS WERE CUT OFF.
ONE THING, THOUGH. JUST AN IDEA.

CUT OFF? IN THAT ACCIDENT ?


BELIEVE ANY SUCH THING.
I DON'T WANT TO
IT CAN'T BE HIS FAULT!
YOU MIGHT BE ON TO SOME-THING, BLACK JACK.
YOUR CAREER'D BE OVER.
BUT TO THINK YOUR FINGERS WOULD FREEZE...
AND NOW, 20 YEARS LATER, THEY'VE WEAKENED.
MAYBE YOUR NERVES COULDN'T HANDLE IT.
EVEN IF DR. HONMA DIDN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES
WELL, I'VE DONE PLENTY OF FOOLISH THINGS. PERHAPS I DESERVE IT.
HEH...
YOU'RE RIGHT. THE CURTAIN WOULD FALL ON BLACK JACK, GENIUS SURGEON...
WHO'S BETTER THAN DOCTOR HONMA ?
SHOW ME.
WHY NOT GET A SKILLED SURGEON TO TREAT YOU?
WE OUGHT TO FIX THIS.
STOP TALKING LIKE A FOOL!





NOTE: UENO AND ASAKUSA ARE AREAS OF TAITO WARD, TOKYO, IN THE TRADITIONAL *SHITAMACHI* OR "LOW CITY." THE DOCTOR'S NAME THUS HAS A NO-NONSENSE, DOWN-TO-EARTH RING.

IT'S BEEN 20 YEARS.
YOU'RE THAT KID?
SO
OH?

YOU MADE A MIRACULOUS AND FULL RECOVERY.

RIGHT! YOU WERE IN PIECES DUE TO AN ACCIDENT. HONMA OPERATED ON YOU!
I REMEMBER IT LIKE YESTERDAY.

THERE WAS NO WAY YOU'D WALK AGAIN.
I'D TOLD HIM

NEVER THOUGHT THAT KID WOULD BECOME A NOTORIOUS BLACK-MARKET SURGEON !

IT WAS AMAZING. HE WAS A GREAT MAN.
BUT HE PULLED IT OFF.

WE'RE GOING TO REGRESS INTO THE PAST.

LET'S BEGIN.
WELL THEN,

YOU ARE ASLEEP... YOU FEEL GOOD...
YOU ARE GROWING YOUNGER...
YOUNGER...

YOU'RE GONNA HYPNOTIZE ME?

YES! I BELIEVE YOUR PROBLEM IS PSYCHOLOGICAL, CAUSED BY SOMETHING IN YOUR PAST!

WHY SHOULD I SUFFER FROM THIS NOW?
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

ON THE COUNT OF 3, YOU WILL SLEEP.
CLOSE YOUR EYES.

1, 2... 3!

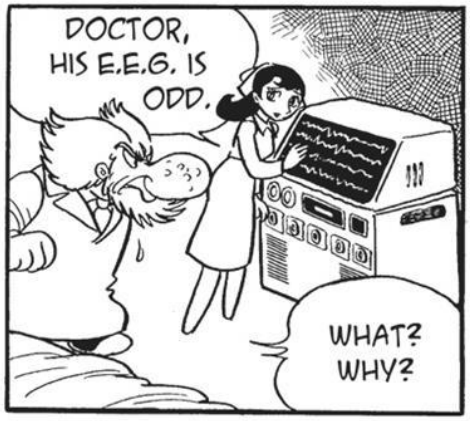
YOU ARE ASLEEP IN A BED. YOU HAVE JUST COME OUT OF MAJOR SURGERY.

CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S NEXT TO YOU?

IT'S DOCTOR HONMA ...
A FACE ...

YOU'RE GONNA BE JUST FINE, YOU'LL RECOVER! YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT AGAIN!
IS HE SAYING SOMETHING?

YOU ARE EVEN YOUNGER... A CHILD. YOU ARE TRYING TO RECOVER FROM SERIOUS INJURIES!


DOCTOR, HIS E.E.G. IS ODD.
WHAT? WHY?

WHAT'S WRONG? WHY SO QUIET? IT'S OKAY TO TALK NOW.

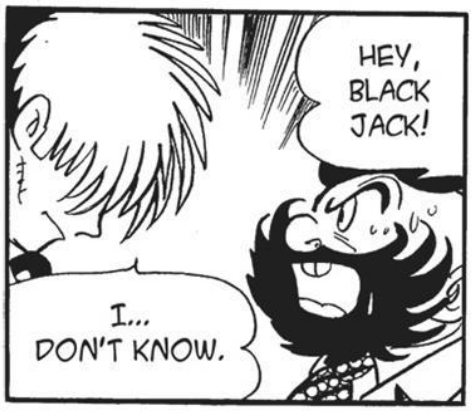
DON'T GIVE UP!!

WHAT MADE THEM SO WEAK?
HE'S SURPRISED THAT MY BRAIN WAVES ARE WEAK.
I'M JUST LYING THERE, LISTENING TO DR. HONMA TALK...

HIS BRAIN WAVES ARE GETTING WEAKER!

DON'T LET ME DOWN!
DON'T BE A PESSIMIST!

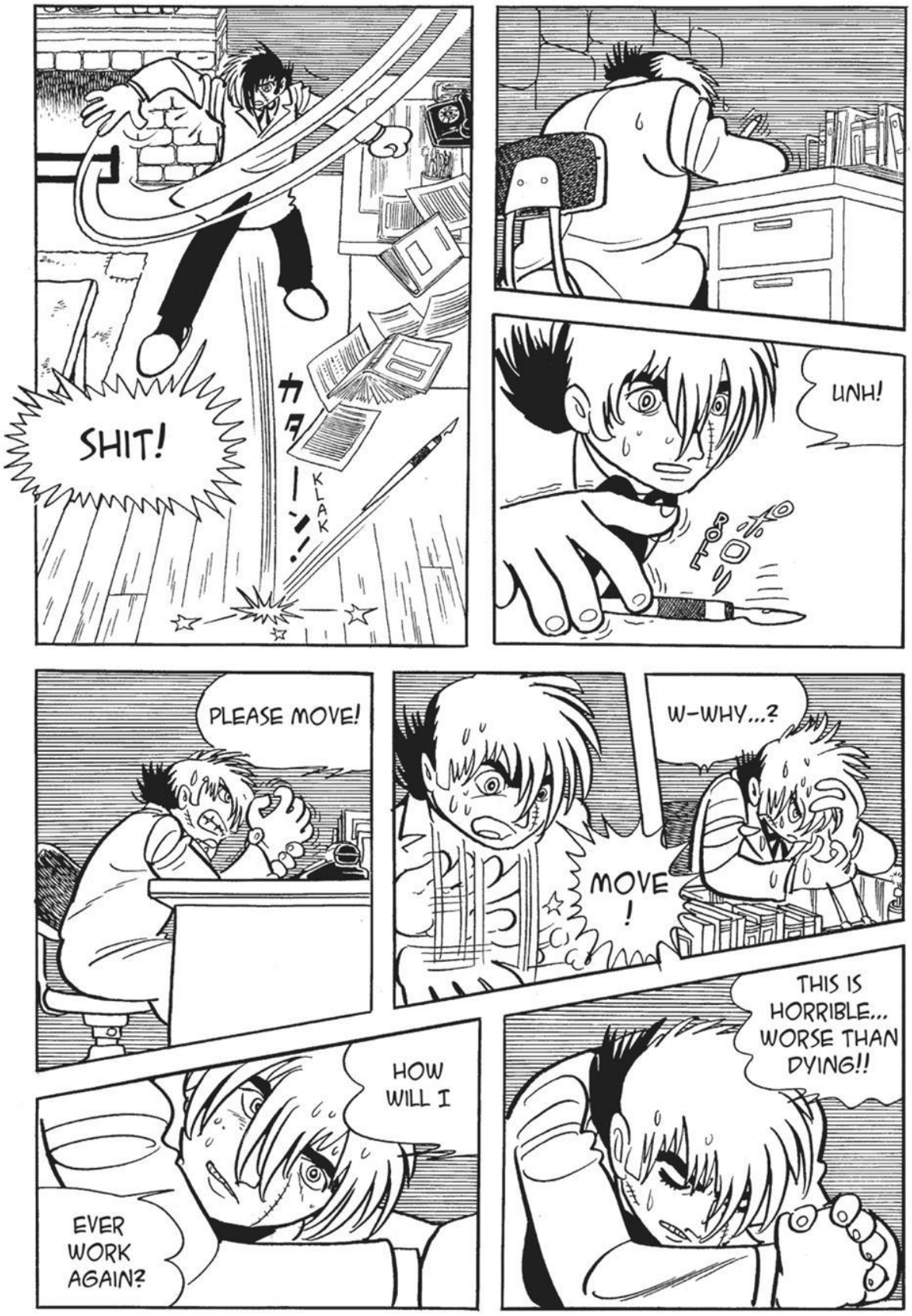
NOW HE LOOKS ANGRY.


HEY, BLACK JACK!
I... DON'T KNOW.

...

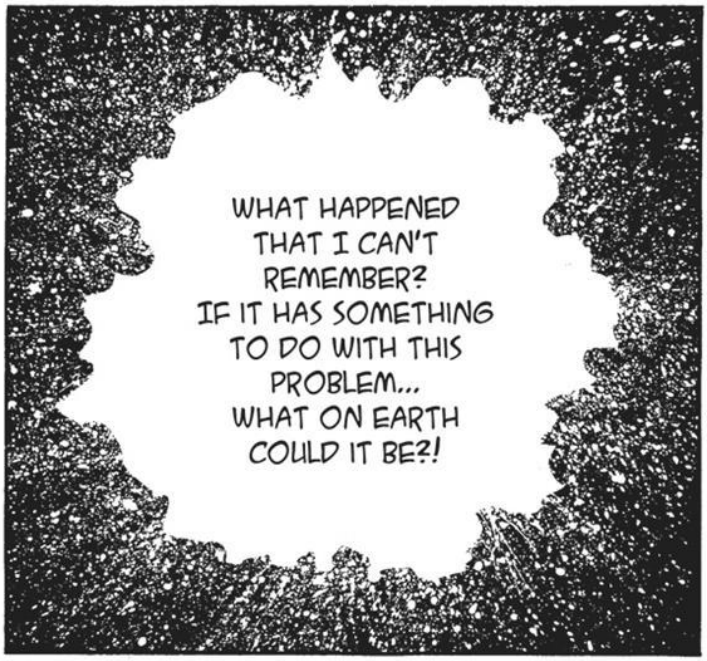
AND THEN WHAT?

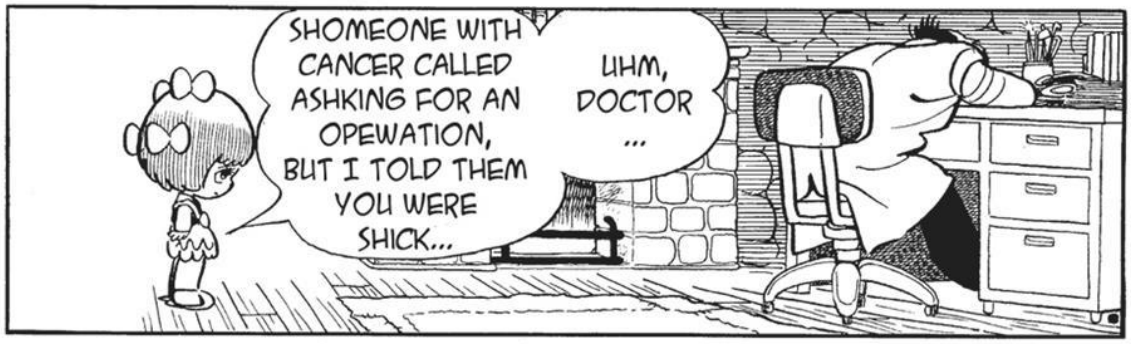
ENOUGH. WHEN I CLAP THREE TIMES, YOU'LL WAKE UP.
YOU DON'T KNOW? WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I REACTED.
UGH, I FEEL FUNNY.
WE'RE MISSING SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
OKAY. 1, 2, 3!
DESPITE HONMA'S HARD WORK, YOU QUIT!
BUT SUDDENLY YOU LOST THE WILL TO GO ON.
YOUR RECOVERY WAS GOING WELL FOR A WHILE.
IT MIGHT BE RELATED TO WHAT'S CAUSING YOUR FINGERS TO FREEZE.
AT THAT POINT THERE'S A TOTAL BLANK IN YOUR MEMORY! YOU'VE BLOCKED SOMETHING.


SHIT!
カタ
ーン!
KLAK
UNH!
PLEASE MOVE!
W-WHY...?
MOVE!
HOW WILL I EVER WORK AGAIN?
THIS IS HORRIBLE... WORSE THAN DYING!!

WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING?

UNH...

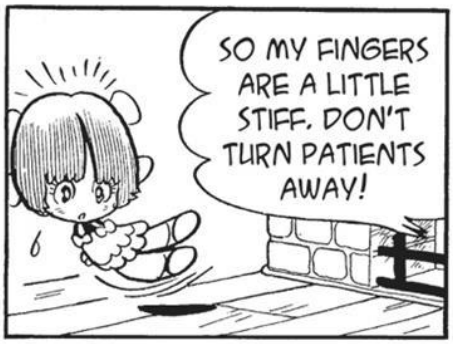

WHAT HAPPENED THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER? IF IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS PROBLEM... WHAT ON EARTH COULD IT BE?!


SHOMEONE WITH CANCER CALLED ASHKING FOR AN OPEWATION, BUT I TOLD THEM YOU WERE SHICK...
UHM, DOCTOR ...

AN INSISTENT GANGSTER. I CAN'T TURN HIM AWAY NOW.

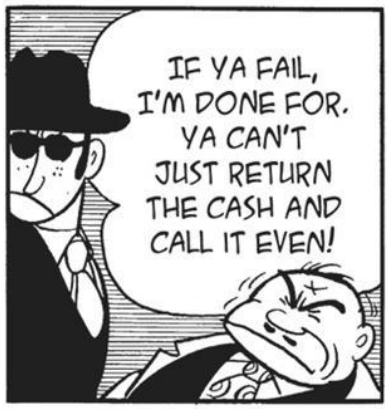
RIGHT, I'VE GOT A PATIENT WITH A SPLEEN TUMOR. WE HAD A DEAL.

WHO TOLD YOU TO DO THAT? I'M NOT SICK!

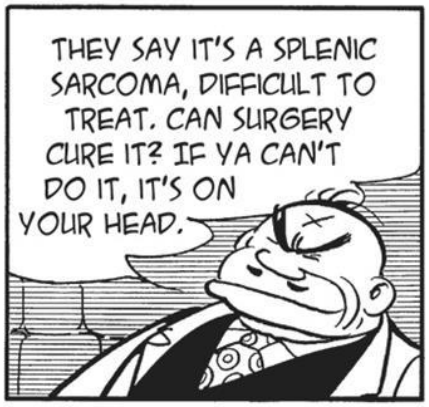

SO MY FINGERS ARE A LITTLE STIFF. DON'T TURN PATIENTS AWAY!

I'M CHAIRMAN YAMATO SPIRIT, PATRIOTIC WINGERS. I'LL BE IN YOUR CARE.

FIFTY MILLION !
WE'VE BROUGHT THE FEE WITH US. CAN WE BEGIN RIGHT AWAY?


IF YA FAIL, I'M DONE FOR. YA CAN'T JUST RETURN THE CASH AND CALL IT EVEN!

I WON'T KNOW 'TIL I SEE IT.


THEY SAY IT'S A SPLENIC SARCOMA, DIFFICULT TO TREAT. CAN SURGERY CURE IT? IF YA CAN'T DO IT, IT'S ON YOUR HEAD.

GET READY, THEN.
WE'LL DO IT NOW.

SCREW UP AND YOU'RE DONE.
WE ASKED YOU CUZ WE TRUST YOU, DOCTOR.
DOWN, BOYS.

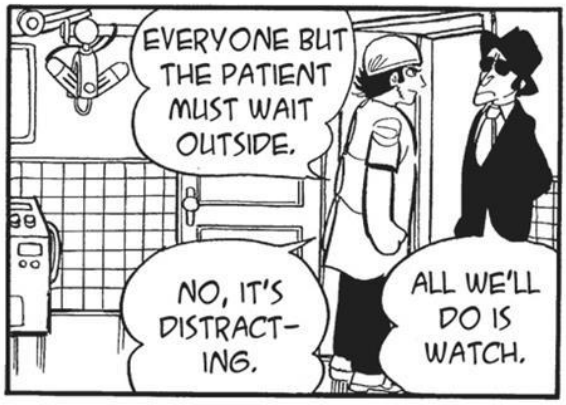
YOUR HANDS ARE ALWEADY SHAKING.

I'LL GET THROUGH IT EVEN IF I HAVE TO TIE THE SCALPEL TO MY HAND!

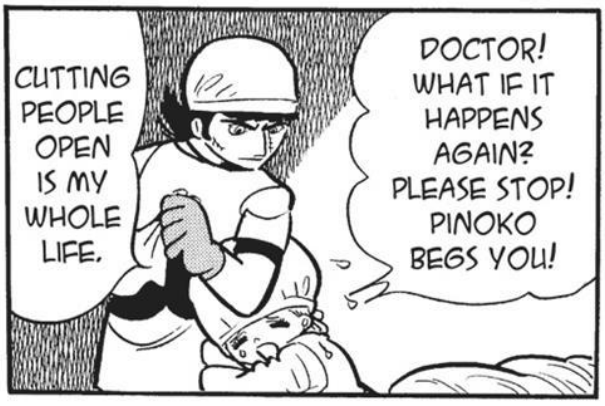
YOU OKAY?
DOC-TOR!

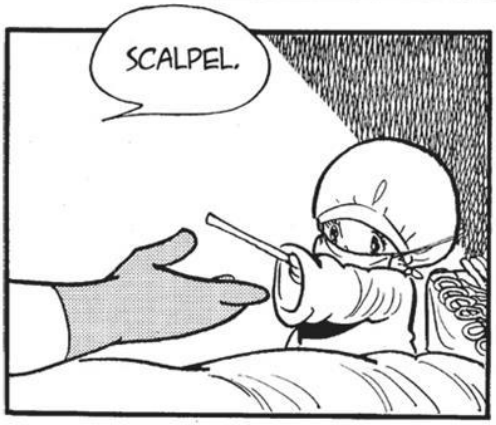
DOC-TOR... TAKE IT EASY.

PUT HIM UN-DER ...


EVERYONE BUT THE PATIENT MUST WAIT OUTSIDE.
NO, IT'S DISTRACT-ING.
ALL WE'LL DO IS WATCH.

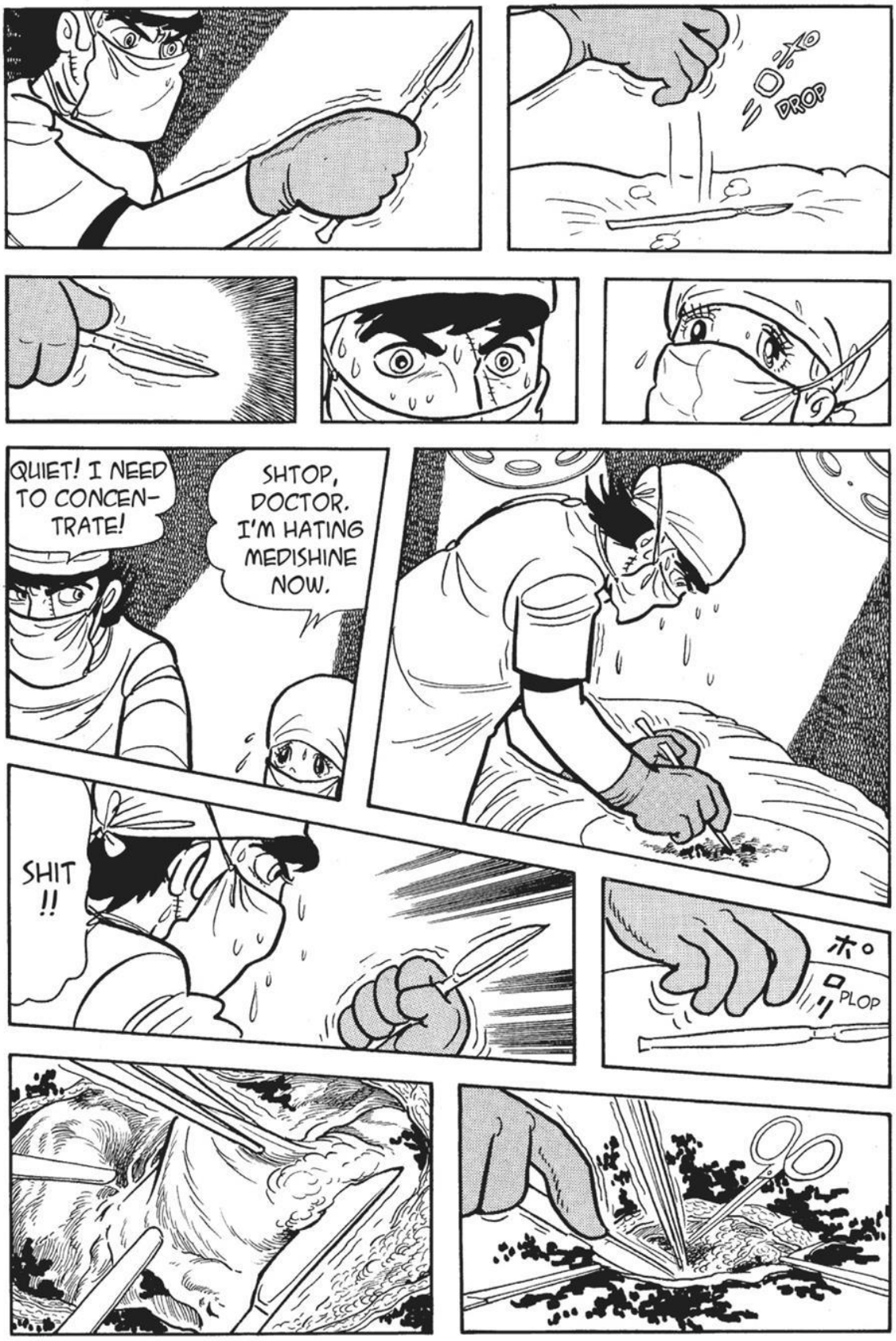
YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL, PINO-KO.
WHAT'S LEFT OF ME WITH-OUT MY WORK ?

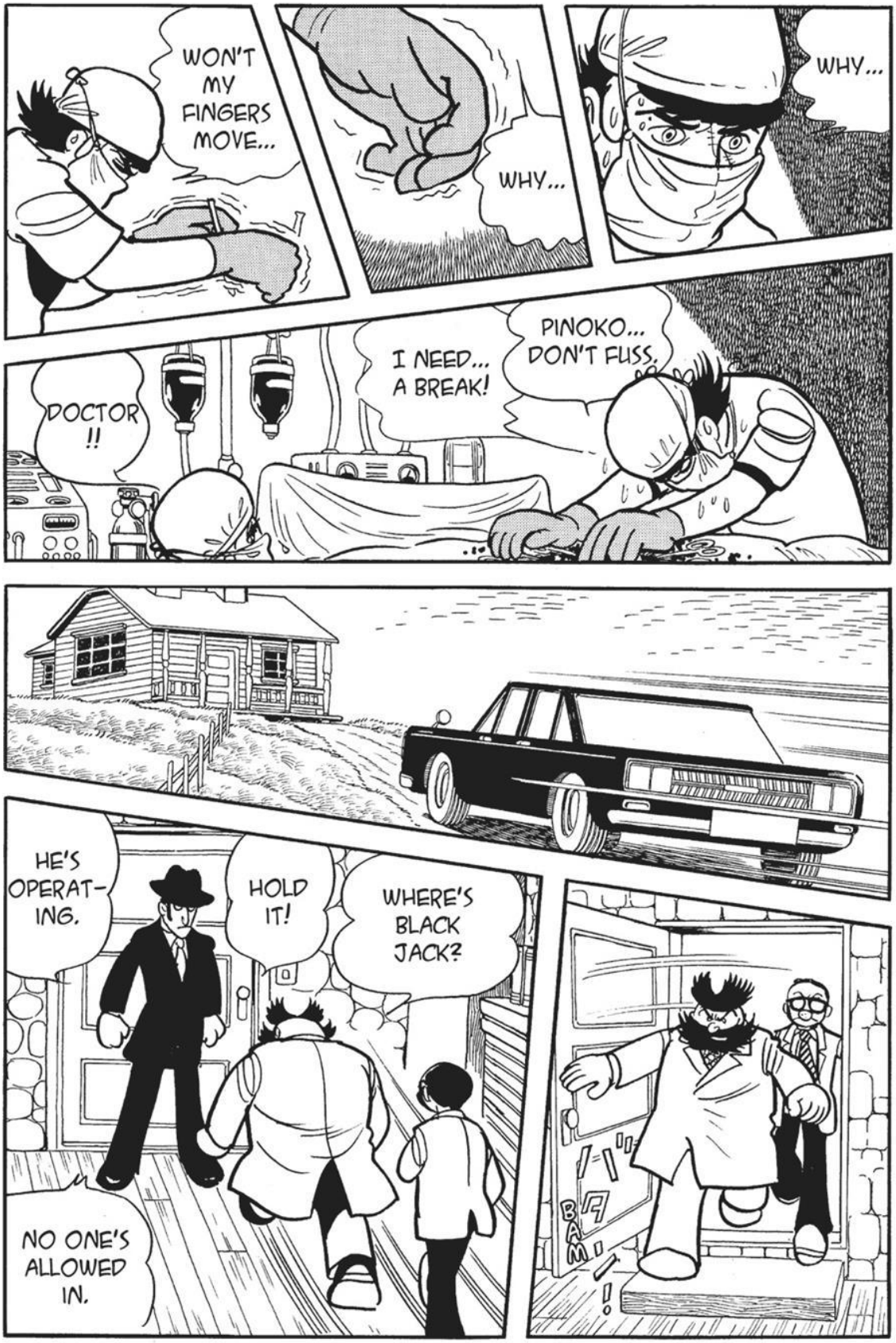

CUTTING PEOPLE OPEN IS MY WHOLE LIFE.
DOCTOR! WHAT IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN? PLEASE STOP! PINOKO BEGS YOU!


SCALPEL.

YUP.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION READY?


DROP
QUIET! I NEED TO CONCEN-TRATE!
SHTOP, DOCTOR. I'M HATING MEDISHINE NOW.
SHIT !!
ポ。
PLOP

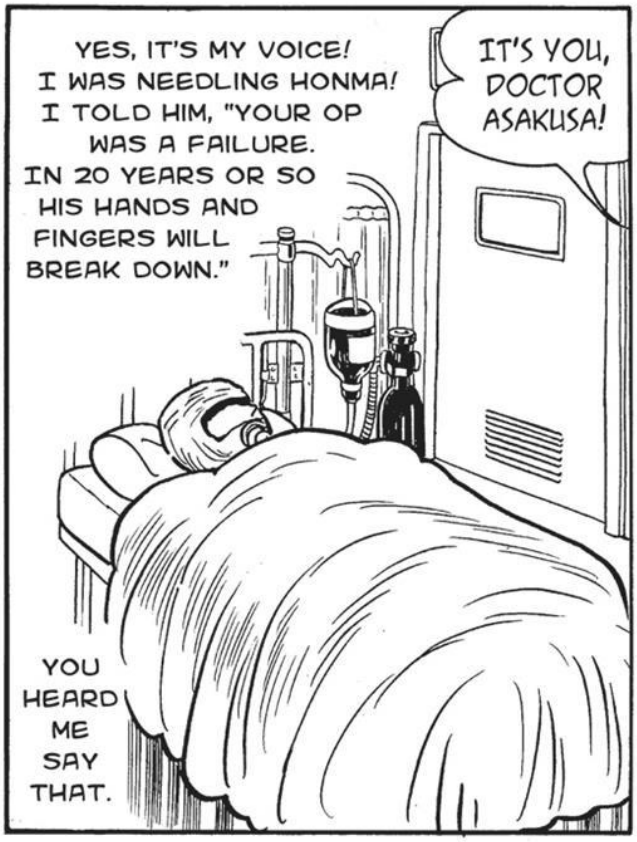

WON'T MY FINGERS MOVE...
WHY...
WHY...
DOCTOR !!
I NEED... A BREAK!
PINOKO... DON'T FUSS.
HE'S OPERAT-ING.
HOLD IT!
WHERE'S BLACK JACK?
NO ONE'S ALLOWED IN.
BAM!

SLEEP!

I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS WITH THE DOCTOR!

I'M DR. UENO—
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE. YOU'RE NOT GETTING PAST ME.

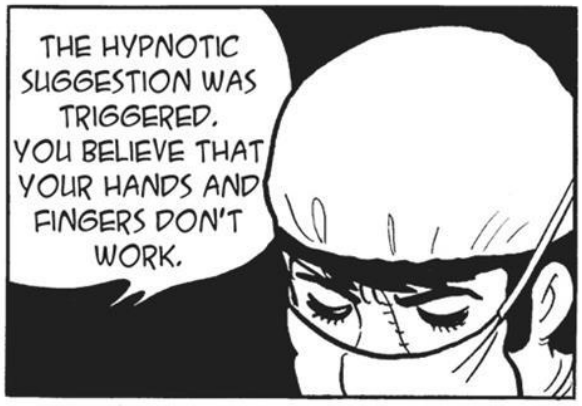
HERE?
I NEED TO HYPNOTIZE YOU AGAIN.
BLACK JACK!
RIGHT NOW!


YES, IT'S MY VOICE! I WAS NEEDLING HONMA! I TOLD HIM, "YOUR OP WAS A FAILURE. IN 20 YEARS OR SO HIS HANDS AND FINGERS WILL BREAK DOWN."
IT'S YOU, DOCTOR ASAKUSA!
YOU HEARD ME SAY THAT.

TO RIGHT AFTER THE OP!
GO BACK TO WHEN YOU WERE A KID!

YOU CAN HEAR SOMEONE SPEAKING OUTSIDE.
YOU'RE WEAK.
YOU'RE SLEEPING.
WHO IS IT?

IT'S WHAT WE CALL A POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION! MY UNNECESSARY AND CARELESS REMARK ENDED UP LODGED IN YOUR PSYCHE AS A TERRIBLE BIND.
YOU BECAME CONVINCED YOUR FINGERS WOULD FAIL YOU IN TWENTY YEARS.
THE WORDS STUCK IN YOUR MIND IN THE FORM OF A SUGGESTION.


THE HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION WAS TRIGGERED. YOU BELIEVE THAT YOUR HANDS AND FINGERS DON'T WORK.

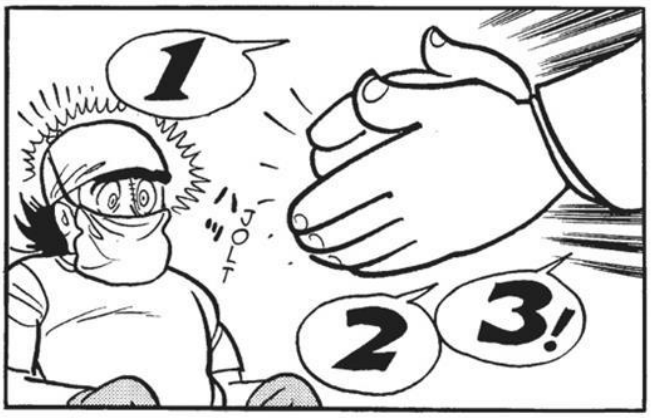
BUT AFTER TWENTY YEARS...
YOU TRIED TO FORGET THE PREDICTION AND EMPTIED YOUR MEMORY OF THAT MOMENT.

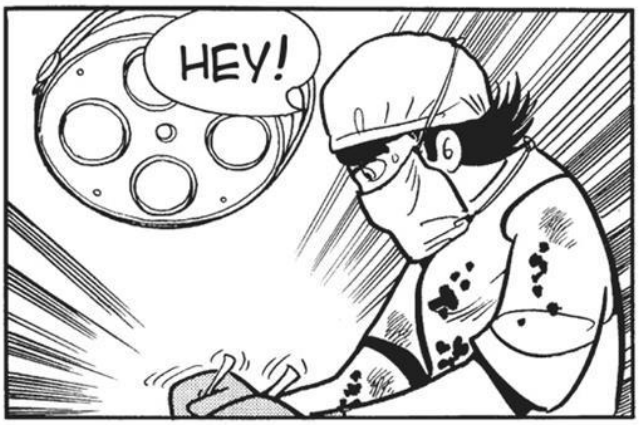
YOUR FINGERS WILL WORK JUST FINE!! OKAY ?
WHEN YOU DO

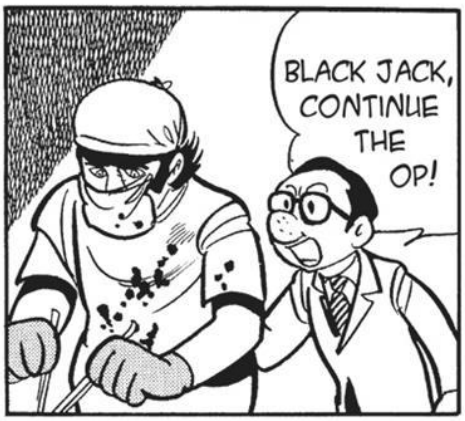
WHEN I CLAP THREE TIMES, YOU'LL WAKE UP!

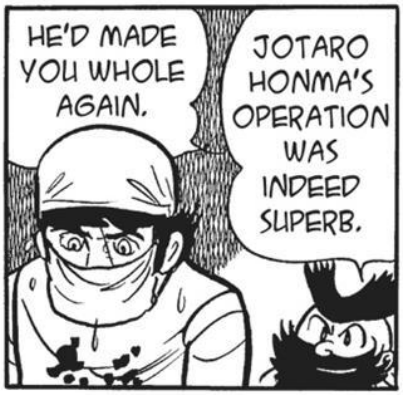
I'LL REMOVE THE SUGGES-TION.
IT'S MY FAULT.

...
HOW DO YOU FEEL?


1
JOLT
2
3!

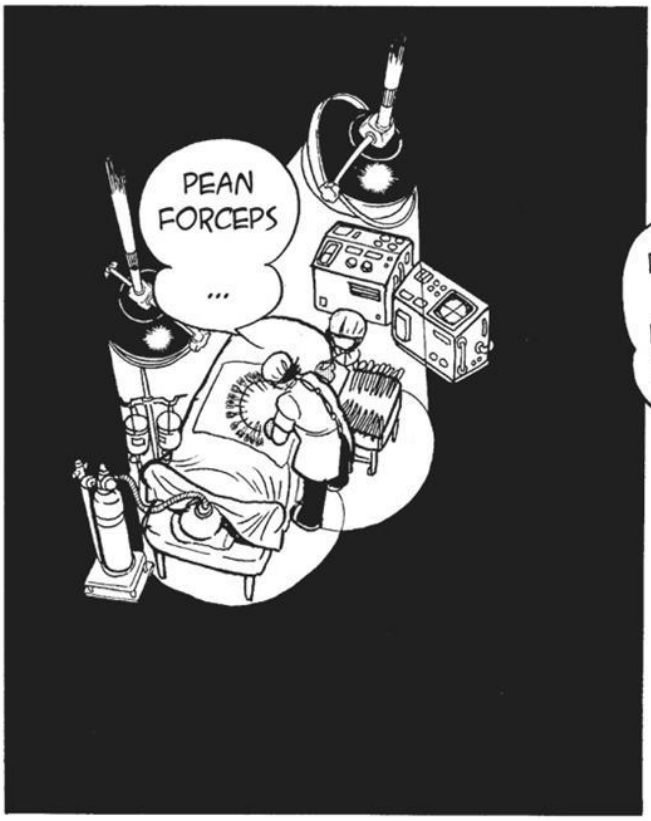

HEY!


BLACK JACK, CONTINUE THE OP!


HE'D MADE YOU WHOLE AGAIN.
JOTARO HONMA'S OPERATION WAS INDEED SUPERB.

NOTHING, REALLY.
JUST THAT ...

TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?


PEAN FORCEPS ...

THEY WORK!
PINOKO, MY FINGERS WORK...

// A PEERLESS MEDICAL DRAMA //

"**BLACK JACK** IS AN ADULT GRAPHIC NOVEL. ADULT IN THE SENSE THAT IT TREATS ANGST AND POWER FANTASIES, THE STUFF OF MANY A SUPERHERO BOOK, AS UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS THAT SHOULD BE CURED... [THE] ENDINGS AREN'T ALWAYS HAPPY, BUT **BLACK JACK** IS FAR FROM A DOWNER READ." —COMICS BULLETIN

COVER DESIGN BY PETER MENDELSUND
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